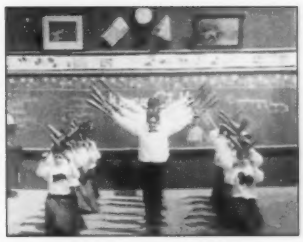
The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 59, Nos. 8-9 August-September 2000

America at Work



America at Leisure

The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 59, Nos. 8-9 August-September 2000

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
200
LIBRARIES • CREATIVITY • LIBERTY

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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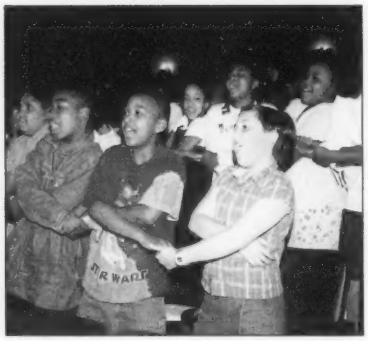

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On the Cover: A new collection on the Library's American Memory Web site features 150 movies from the turn of the last century.

Cover Story: In its infancy, the medium of film was used to capture every aspect of American life—work, school and leisure. The Library has made many of these early films available through its Web site. 204

A Digital Strategy: The National Academy of Sciences has released a report, commissioned by the Library, on digital initiatives. 195

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Designer

A Blueprint for the Future

NAS Releases Report on Strategy for the Library

BY GAIL FINEBERG

The Library needs to develop an overall strategy for acquiring, describing and preserving electronic journals and books, Web sites and links, databases and other digital creations.

If it is to be relevant in the 21st century, the Library must not only acquire digital information for its own collections through the copyright deposit system, but also lead other libraries in a collaborative, strategic effort to select digital information that is worth keeping, determine how to catalog it and decide how and where to archive it before it is lost forever.

That is the thrust of a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) committee report, *LC21: A Digital Strategy for the Library of Congress*, issued to the Library on July 26. Dr. Billington commissioned the study in 1998.

James J. O'Donnell, vice provost of the Office of Information Systems and Computing at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, chaired the 16-member Committee on an Information Technology Strategy for the Library of Congress. The committee project was approved by the governing board of the National Research Council, which is the chief operating arm of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering.

Mr. O'Donnell and four other committee members commented on their 207-page study during a public session July 26 at the Academy of Sciences in Washington.

He summed up the committee's overarching conclusions: "The digital revolution has upended expectations, expanded possibilities and posed breathtaking opportunities for libraries around the world.

"Our study of the library and its strategic and tactical reactions to this moment in history concludes that the walls of that venerable place have not yet sufficiently been penetrated by the thrilling possibilities of the moment, and that if this moment is lost, the library risks subsiding into gray irrelevance."

Committee members and follow-up panelists, who also commented on the report, praised Dr. Billington's "bold decision" to request the study.

"I very much admire Dr. Billington's decision to request this study," said panelist Deanna Marcum, of the Council of Library and Information Resources. "While the staff might well have been able to write its own self-study, the fact is, that there is nothing like an outside statement to focus an institution on making necessary changes."

Another panelist, Clifford Lynch, of the Coalition for Networked Information, said the Library could have hired a "routine consultant" to address some of its technology issues.

"Instead, the Library went to the National Research Council, which has a well-established history of putting together independent, broad-ranging, thoughtful committees that have a notable degree of independence and rigor. ... What we have is quite a remarkable report, which I think the Library of Congress needs to be applauded for asking for," Mr. Lynch said.

"This isn't just a narrow review of information technology. This is really about how the Library of Congress and the digital world connect up with our society, with the whole system of libraries, and the management of cultural and intellectual heritage in this country," he said.

Initial Response

The NAS recommendations pose "one of the most interesting collective challenges in the history of the Library of Congress," the Librarian said. "The study addresses what we should be doing and how fast we should be doing it."

Addressing Library managers during a special session the day after the report was issued, Dr. Billington said he was "enormously energized" by the report.

"It's not going to be business as usual," he said, adding that he expects a large-scale response to the report, on the order of the Library's successful efforts to establish the National Digital Library Program in a short time and to plan and implement the Integrated Library System.

He said he would not have wanted a study like this "if I didn't think we had extraordinary commitment in this institution, if I didn't think we had in place extraordinary managers who are dedicated."

(The report may be viewed online at the National Research Council site, at **www.nap.edu/books/0309071445/html**.)

Deputy Librarian Donald L. Scott told Library managers that he wants the Library's response to the report, including budget requests, in hand by the end of the year. The NAS committee asked that the Library publish, by Jan. 1, 2001, its own review of the report and outline of the agenda the Library will pursue.

"By the summer of 2001, the library community will see changes that we have started to implement," Mr. Scott said.

Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb said he was "gratified and relieved" to learn from the

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NOTICE

The "American Treasures of the Library of Congress" exhibition will close for a month on Oct. 8 so that the exhibition can be refurbished. It will reopen Nov. 7 with a special installation in three cases featuring items related to presidential inaugurations.

New Poet Laureate

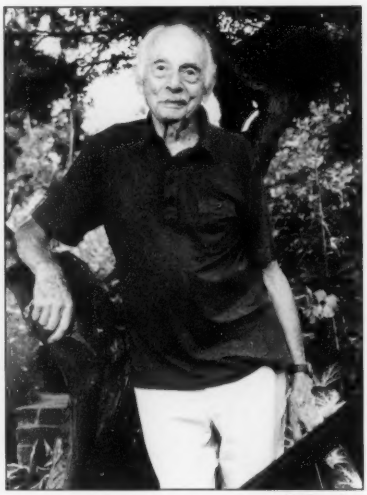
Stanley Kunitz Is 10th to Hold the Post

The Librarian of Congress has announced the appointment of Stanley Kunitz to be the Library's 10th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. He will take up his duties in the fall, opening the Library's annual literary series on Oct. 12 with a reading of his work. Mr. Kunitz succeeds Robert Penn Warren, Richard Wilbur, Howard Nemerov, Mark Strand, Joseph Brodsky, Mona Van Duyn, Rita Dove, Robert Hass and Robert Pinsky.

Of his appointment, Dr. Billington said, "Stanley Kunitz is a creative poet in his 95th year, having published his first volume of poetry in 1930. He continues to be a mentor and model for several generations of poets, and he brings to the office of Poet Laureate a lifetime of commitment to poetry that is a source of inspiration and admiration for us all. We derive enormous pleasure from his willingness to serve as the nation's 10th Poet Laureate, bringing to bear his unparalleled knowledge of 20th century poetry as we enter the 21st century."

Stanley Kunitz, who served as Consultant in Poetry at the Library from 1974 to 1976 (before the title was changed to "Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry" with the passage in 1985 of PL 99-194), was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1905 and educated at Harvard. His 10 books of poetry include *Passing Through: The Later Poems, New and Selected* (W.W. Norton, 1995), which won the National Book Award; *Next-to-Last Things: New Poems and Essays* (1985); *Selected Poems 1928-1958*, which won the Pulitzer Prize; *The Testing-Tree* (1971); and *Intellectual Things* (1930). He also co-translated *Orchard Lamps* by Ivan Drach (1978), *Story Under Full Sail* by Andrei Voznesensky (1974) and *Poems of Akhmatova* (1973), and edited *The Essential Blake* (1987), *Poems of John Keats* (1964) and *The Yale Series of Younger Poets* (1969-77).

His other honors include the National Medal of the Arts (presented to him by President Clinton in 1993), the Bollingen Prize, a Ford Foundation grant, a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, Harvard's Centennial Medal, the Levinson Prize, the Harriet Monroe Poetry Award, a senior fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Shelley Memorial Award, the Leonore Marshall Prize and the Frost Medal. He was designated State Poet of New York and is a Chancellor Emeritus of the Academy of American Poets and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A founder of the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass., and Poets House in New York City, he taught for many years in the graduate writing program at Columbia University. He lives in New York City and in Provincetown with his wife, the painter Elise Asher.



Ted Rosenberg

Stanley Kunitz

In a 1997 interview with poet Mark Wunderlich for *American Poet*, the quarterly journal of the Academy of American Poets, Mr. Kunitz discussed his more recent work:

"Certainly through the years I've tried to simplify the surface of my poems. I've tried to write more intimately than I did, in a more conversational tone. I have fewer conflicts, perhaps; yet the ones that remain are central to my existence. Since I came to realize, in my middle years, that I was occupying two worlds at once, that of my living and that of my dying, my poems have tended to hover between them. More recently I expressed a desire to write poems that are natural, luminous, deep, spare.... I recognize that there is a great area of unknowing within me. I try to reach into that chaos of the inner life, to touch those words and images that will help me face the ultimate reality. Such existential concerns tend to make me rather impatient with the particulars of the day. At the same time I am aware that it is out of the dailiness of life that one is driven into the deepest recesses of the self. There is a transportation, to and fro, between these two worlds. The moment that flow stops, one stops being a poet."

Background of the Laureateship

The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties required of the Poet Laureate, in order to afford incumbents maximum freedom to work on their own projects while at the Library. Each brings a new emphasis to the position. Allen Tate (1943-44), for example, served as editor of the Library's now-defunct *Quarterly Journal* during his tenure and edited the compilation *Sixty American Poets, 1896-1944*. Some consultants have suggested and chaired literary festivals and conferences; others have spoken in a number of schools and universities and received the public in the Library's Poetry Room.

Maxine Kumin initiated a popular women's series of poetry workshops at the Poetry and Literature Center. Gwendolyn Brooks met with groups of elementary school children to encourage them to write poetry. Howard Nemerov conducted seminars at the Library for high school English classes. Most incumbents have furthered the development of the Library's Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature. Joseph Brodsky initiated the idea of providing poetry in public places—supermarkets, hotels, airports and hospitals. Rita Dove brought a program of poetry and jazz to the Library's literary series, along with a reading by

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Kissinger Chair Established

Endowment to Support Foreign Policy Study

The Librarian of Congress has announced the establishment of the Henry Alfred Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress. Made possible by generous donations of friends and admirers of Mr. Kissinger, the gifts for programs and an endowment will support a range of activities in the study of foreign policy and international relations.

"These gifts to honor Henry Kissinger establish unique opportunities for scholars," said Dr. Billington. "Outstanding thinkers and practitioners will work with the largest and most international collection of library materials in the world, served by an extraordinary staff and located directly across from the Capitol. Mr. Kissinger, who is himself both a statesman and scholar of distinction, knows the value of combining reflection with active involvement. At the Library of Congress, we are gratified that the first chair to be endowed in the Library's third century honors both a man and a field of inquiry so important for America's future." The establishment of the Kissinger Chair comes during the Library's Bicentennial year, as the institution turned 200 on April 24, 2000.

"The resources of this universal Library make it the most fitting home for this chair, so generously supported by friends and colleagues," Mr. Kissinger said.

Official White House Photo

Henry Kissinger (second from left) seated with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and others negotiating an Egypt-Israel agreement in 1975.

The Kissinger Chair Program will be guided by a steering committee, chaired by the Librarian of Congress; other members are Alan Batkin of Kissinger Associates in New York; Lloyd Cutler of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington; Nancy Kissinger; and Peter Rodman, director of national security affairs at the Nixon Center in Washington. It is the only chair in foreign policy at the Library of Congress.

Appointed annually by the Librarian, the holder of the appointment to the Kissinger Chair will be called the Kissinger Scholar. The chair is a distinguished senior research position with a residency of nine months. Using research facilities and services at the Library of Congress, the scholar is expected to engage in research on foreign policy and international affairs that will lead to publication. The scholar may be of any nationality. The annual appointments will be made by the Librarian of Congress upon the recommendation of a selection committee, members of which are appointed by the steering committee for three-year rotating terms. The four-person selection committee will consist of two members of the academic community and two high-ranking foreign policy experts no longer in office.

As part of the Kissinger program, a Kissinger Lecturer will be appointed annually to deliver the Kissinger Lecture. Like the Kissinger Scholar, the lecturer may be of any nationality. The lecturer will have achieved distinction in the field of foreign affairs. Each lecture will be published and, every five years, the lectures will be aggregated into an edited volume that may contain additional material. The lecturers, who will receive a $20,000 honorarium and round-trip transportation, will be appointed upon recommendation of the Steering Committee.

With total gifts of $4.2 million for programs and endowment, the Kissinger Chair establishes an important focus at the Library of Congress for research and discussion of foreign policy and international affairs. The publications of the Kissinger Lecturers and Kissinger Scholars are intended to serve as a catalyst for fresh analysis of foreign affairs in the global era.

The Library will issue a call for nominations and applications on Sept. 15. Information about the particulars required in letters of nomination or applications may be obtained after that date by writing to the Office of Scholarly Programs, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington DC 20540-4860; telephone (202) 707-3302); fax (202) 707-3595) or e-mail: pgif@loc.gov. ◆

Kunitz
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young Crow Indian poets, and a two-day conference, "Oil on the Waters: The Black Diaspora," featuring panel discussions, readings and music. Robert Hass sponsored a weeklong gathering of American nature writers and poets that brought 26 of the best environmental writers and poets to the Library in the spring of 1997. Most recently, Robert Pinsky initiated his Favorite Poem Project, which energized a nation of poetry readers to share, in readings across the country and in audio and video recordings, their favorite poems. The project was a major program of the Library's Bicentennial, which it is celebrating this year. ◆

Library Debuts New Exhibition Space

American Library Association Meeting Is First Venue-

BY GUY LAMOLINARA

The Library of Congress settled comfortably into its new "digs" at the Annual Meeting of the American Library Association in Chicago, July 8-11.

This sometime workplace for staffers traveling to Chicago was the Library's new exhibitor's booth, a state-of-the-art facility for showcasing many of Library of Congress's public services.

"This new booth really gives us the opportunity to highlight to the Library community the terrific services that we provide to librarians and their patrons," said Linda White, of the National Digital Library Learning Center. Ms. White not only headed a group of interested parties from around the Library who worked together on the new design, but also coordinated all activities associated with staffing the facility. In addition, she traveled to Chicago two days before the conference opened on Saturday, July 8, to work with a crew in setting up the booth– no small task.

Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 8 and congratulated Ms. White for her achievement.

The new exhibit space, with its modern, open design and canopy roof, garnered praise from the other exhibitors as well. Many of them visited the booth to comment favorably and find out who had designed it; they wanted to use the same designers for their new exhibit spaces.

The new design also made it easier for Library of Congress staffers to give demonstrations and meet with conference-goers. Areas of the Library offering demonstrations were: the National Digital Library (NDL) Program; Cataloging Distribution Services (CDS); Photoduplication; the Center for the Book; Public Affairs; the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS); Interpretive Programs; Electronic Cataloging in Publication (ECIP); Cataloging; Area Studies and other Library Services programs; the Bicentennial Program Office; and Human Resources.

As always, the Sales Shop came offering Library-related merchandise, including the commemorative coins. And, as always, the shop was a magnet for booth traffic; long lines of shoppers eagerly awaiting their chance to make their purchases were not uncommon throughout the conference.

Oscar and Associates

The Library's new exhibition booth features a retractable screen for audiovisual presentations.

The new booth's open design features a demonstration area with a screen and seating. Throughout the day, Library of Congress staffers provided 30-minute demonstrations of various programs. For example, Public Affairs demonstrated the Library's new Web site for kids and families, America's Library (**www.americaslibrary.gov**); NDL staffers discussed various American Memory collections and the Learning Page; NLS talked about meeting the needs of its users nationwide; Human Resources told about its recruiting efforts; the Center for the Book provided an update on its many national reading-promotion projects; the Bicentennial Program Office gave an overview of activities past and present related to the celebration of Library of Congress's 200th birthday; Interpretive Programs showcased its online exhibitions; CDS demonstrated some of its innovative products; Area Studies showed how its collections can be a "Portal to the World"; ECIP highlighted its latest features; new subject headings and other cataloging issues were on the table during other presentations; and a proposed Collaborative Digital Reference Service, which, in conjunction with other institutions, would provide online reference assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, was highlighted.

Library of Congress employees staffing the booth did their best to help everyone who visited, and their efforts were recognized when the ALA New Members Round Table awarded an "honorable mention" to the Library for having the friendliest booth.

During the next several months, the new Library of Congress booth will undergo some minor modifications that were suggested by staffers. But this time, Ms. White won't be taking her show on the road: The next ALA meeting will be held in Washington, in February 2001, when the Library will welcome thousands of visitors to its booth at the Washington Convention Center and to its facilities on Capitol Hill. ◆

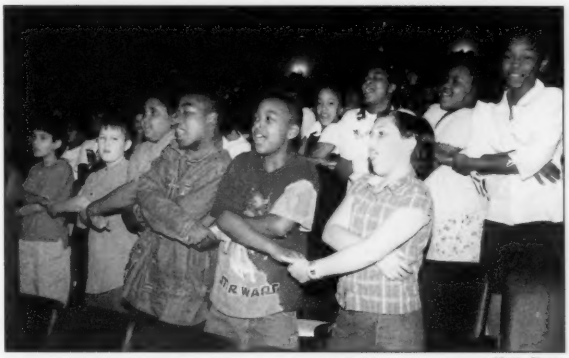
Building a Nation of Readers

Children Come to the Library for a History Lesson

BY CHARYLNN SPENCER PYNE

On the morning of May 24, more than 450 schoolchildren came with their teachers to the Coolidge Auditorium for a history lesson on the civil rights movement and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The children, students from the Capitol Hill Day School, the Home Study Program at Bolling Air Force Base, Lowell School and District of Columbia public schools, were attending the third program in the "Building a Nation of Readers" series that highlights the resources of the Library of Congress and promotes lifelong learning. This series for children is cosponsored by the Public Service Collections Directorate and the Center for the Book.

During the question-and-answer period before the program, John Cole, director of the Center for the Book, Diane Kresh, director of Public Service Collections, and Marvin Kranz, American history specialist in the Manuscript Division, were peppered with questions that ranged from "Where are you going to put all the new stuff being written?" to "What kind of jobs do you have here?" and "Where are the videos?"



Marita Clance

Students and teachers sing "We Shall Overcome" after hearing historian Bernice Johnson Reagon (bottom left) provide an account in word and song of the 1960s civil rights movement.

Ms. Kresh then introduced the program presenters: Adrienne Cannon, African American history and culture specialist in the Manuscript Division; Mr. Kranz; Norman Middleton, the Music Division's coproducer of the Concerts from the Library of Congress series; Bernice Johnson Reagon, Distinguished Professor of History at American University, curator emerita at the Smithsonian Institution and composer and singer with the a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock, which she founded in 1973; and Warren Tsuneishi, former chief of the Asian Division and director of Area Studies Collections, who retired from the Library in 1993. Ms. Kresh announced that the program would consist mainly of eyewitness accounts (often accompanied by slides of historic photographs selected by Beverly Brannan, curator of photography in the Prints and Photographs Division). She told the students, "Some of what you hear today may be surprising and unsettling; but that, too, is what history is all about. We have to learn about the past in order to understand the present, and shape the future."

Marita Clance

Mr. Kranz, the first presenter, told the students of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and recalled the fear and profound resentment against the Japanese that spread through the nation, especially in California. As a result, the War Relocation Authority was established by executive order on March 18, 1942, and more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans on the West Coast were interned in 10 detention centers in isolated areas in California, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Arkansas. "The best known and first to be established was the Manzanar Relocation Center, and Mr. Tsuneishi and his family were sent to Manzanar," said Mr. Kranz.

Mr. Tsuneishi related how he was forced to leave the University of California to report to the barbed-wire camp. He said, "What hurt most was the loss of liberty. That was very painful, and I feel it to this day." Midway through World War II, and after being screened for loyalty, Mr. Tsuneishi was allowed to enlist in the U.S. Army. Students were shown a poignant photograph of his mother in Manzanar proudly holding a blue star that meant that her child was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Tsuneishi then recounted how Japanese Americans, inspired by the civil rights struggles of African Americans, organized to demand redress for the losses and injury suffered during their internment. Handout packets for the students included a copy of a letter from the Library's collections sent to approximately 60,000 Japanese Americans who had been interned, dated October 1990, and signed by then President George Bush, that states: "In enacting a law calling for restitution and offering a sincere apology, your fellow Americans have, in a very real

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David Taylor

This acetate disc recording in the Library collection is contaminated by mold. A new grant will help preserve historic sound recordings.

'Save Our Sound'

Historic Recording Collections Will Be Preserved

BY JAMES HARDIN

A joint proposal from the American Folklife Center of the Library and the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage has been awarded a grant for $750,000 to preserve historic sound recordings housed at the two institutions.

David Taylor

The White House Millennium Council's preservation program, Save America's Treasures, in partnership with the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, made the grant.

"This award gives recognition to the important intellectual and cultural significance of the recorded voices and music of the American people," said Peggy Bulger, director of the American Folklife Center. "It will help to preserve our irreplaceable aural history."

On July 7, at Anderson Cottage on the grounds of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C., President Bill Clinton announced this year's Save America's Treasures grants. The summer residence for President and Mrs. Lincoln, Anderson Cottage, is typical of the historic sites that have received the preservation grants. But along with the bricks-and-mortar projects on this year's list were a number of projects from archives containing historic records, photographs and sound recordings, including those at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library.

Together, the two institutions hold unparalleled collections of audio recordings documenting the American experience dating from the 1890s—some 140,000 noncommercial recordings of American stories, songs, poems, speeches and music. There are original recordings of Woody Guthrie, Jelly Roll Morton and Leadbelly; the very first field recording of Native American music; the voices of cowboys, farmers, fishermen, factory workers and quilt-makers; African American spirituals; and stories from Jewish immigrants.

"These are the diverse and distinctive voices of the nation," said the Librarian. "They provide splendid evidence of the remarkable creativity of Americans from many different communities and from all parts of our country."

In urgent need of preservation are thousands of original audio recordings made over the 20th century by folklorists, ethnomusicologists, anthropologists and other ethnographers, on wax cylinders, wire, aluminum discs, acetate and audio and video tape. Many, including those from the past several decades, require immediate conservation treatment and copying to other formats. Also in need of preserva-

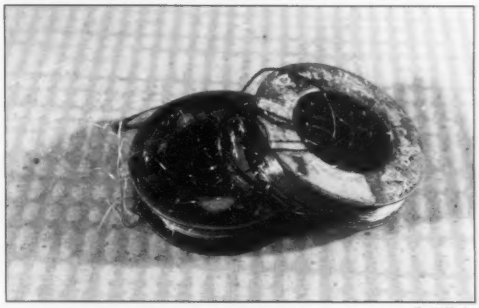
Folklife specialist Jennifer Cutting in one of the climate-controlled collection storage bays in the Library's American Folklife Center.

tion are scores of photographs, drawings, diagrams, maps and fieldnotes that complement and provide interpretive information on the recordings.

Preservation is a continuing and expensive process, and this grant provides resources and incentives for carrying on that important work and for facilitating additional fund-raising efforts. As a condition of the grant, the Smithsonian and the Library must now raise $750,000 in private matching funds.

It is central to the mission of the Library to preserve, secure and sustain for the present and future use of Congress and the nation a comprehensive record of American history and creativity. The White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures program calls attention to the remarkable examples of American creativity captured on the ethnographic sound recordings at the American Folklife Center and the Smithsonian Institution, and helps to ensure that they will be available to future generations.

The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed at the Library of Congress to preserve and present American Folklife through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, public programs and training. The center incorporates the Archive of Folk Culture, which was established in the Library's Music Division in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world. ◆



David Taylor

Two spools of tangled wire recordings that require considerable treatment.

Mr. Hardin is a writer-editor in the American Folklife Center.

'Irreplaceable Treasures'

Dance Coalition Wins $90,000 Preservation Grant

The Dance Heritage Coalition, an alliance of the nation's major dance collections and housed in the Music Division of the Library, has been awarded a grant for $90,000 to pay for the conservation and preservation of three unique collections that represent important aspects of American dance artistry and traditions.

These collections are the Katherine Dunham Archives (African American), located in East St. Louis, Ill.; the Halla Huhm Dance Collection (Korean American), located in Honolulu; and Cross-Cultural Dance Resources (Native American, Eleanor King, Gertrude Kurath and Joann Kealiinohomoku collections), located in Flagstaff, Ariz.

The grant, which will be matched by $90,000 in private funds, will assist in the preservation of photographs, moving-image material, costumes and musical instruments.

Coalition President Sali Ann Kriegsman noted: "Each collection is a community-based, grassroots organization that plays a vital role in the vitality of its community, and this support will allow the DHC to provide technical assistance to these extremely worthy, yet fragile, dance archives."

The grant comes from a preservation program, Save America's Treasures, sponsored by the White House Millennium Council in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Park Service administers the program.

Deer dancer, from the Gertrude P. Kurath Collection of the Cross-Cultural Dance Resources in Flagstaff, Ariz.

On July 7, President Clinton announced the Dance Heritage Coalition grant along with three others, including one shared by the Library's American Folklife Center and the Smithsonian Institution (see related story, page 200).

"We are thrilled that the highly competitive program chose to include America's dance history among its awards," said coalition Chairman Vicky Risner, who is head of Acquisitions and Processing in the Music Division at the Library. "We believe the three archives selected for this preservation grant are emblematic of the tremendous need for support for dance preservation and of the diversity of America's dance experiences."

The Dance Heritage Coalition serves as an institutional think tank and national advocate for documentation, preservation and access issues facing arts and cultural organizations, artists, educators and libraries. Elizabeth Aldrich serves as director. Members of the coalition, other than the Library of Congress, are the American Dance Festival, the New York Public Library Dance Division, the Harvard Theatre Collection, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Ohio State University, Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute; and the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum. ◆

Bicentennial Background

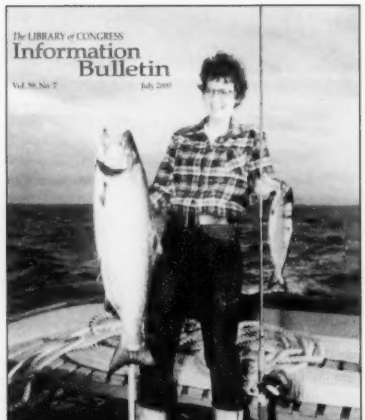
The Library's *Information Bulletin* and *Gazette*

BY JOHN Y. COLE

The Bicentennial commemoration has stimulated the most widespread national publicity for the Library in the institution's history. Grassroots projects such as Local Legacies, second-day issue ceremonies for the Library's postage stamp in libraries across the country and Favorite Poem events in dozens of communities have put meaning into the Bicentennial theme of "Libraries, Creativity, Liberty." Hundreds of articles, most of them in local newspapers, but just as many mentions on radio and television, have highlighted the Bicentennial and the Library's services to Congress, libraries, and individuals (see related stories beginning on page 210).

Not surprisingly, many of the most detailed and accurate descriptions of Bicentennial activities have appeared in two Library publications: the Library of Congress *Information Bulletin* (1942-) and *The Gazette* (1990-), the weekly newspaper distributed to the Library's staff. Thanks to the skills and enthusiasm of the (mostly) staff authors, the articles have presented both in-depth coverage of the major Bicentennial projects and events and an overall sense of the commemoration's importance; that is, how the individual projects look to the Library's future and to strengthening the institution's ties to Congress and other key supporters and constituencies.

Coverage of Library events, even by the Library's own publications, has not always been as thorough as it is today. Created during World War II by Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish (1939-1944) in order to explain the Library's activities more widely and effectively to the staff, the *Bulletin* almost was a victim of wartime cutbacks at the Library. It survived, however, and since then has been shaped and reshaped by the needs and philosophies of Librarians of Congress Luther H. Evans (1945-1953), L. Quincy Mumford (1954-74), Daniel J. Boorstin (1975-1987) and James H. Billington (1987-) and their administrative colleagues. A short history of the *Information Bulletin* and the many changes in its format, content, frequency of publication and editorship was published in the Jan. 13, 1992, issue on the occasion of the publication's 50th anniversary.



The most recent issues of the Library of Congress *Information Bulletin* and *The Gazette*.

The first issue of the *Information Bulletin* was published under the title *Staff Information Bulletin* in early 1942. It provided practical information for the staff through short notices, many of which reflected the wartime atmosphere. Here, for example, is the first article: "24-HOUR AIR RAID WATCH. An air raid precautions watch of 24 hours daily, 7 days a week, will be inaugurated at 8 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25th. Fifty-four persons will divide the watch in the main building, working from midnight to 8 a.m. one week out of every nine."

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS • WASHINGTON
Staff Bulletin
December 15, 1942
No. 1
Writers Club To Elect; Lecture Program Planned
Stradivari Concert Set for Friday
"Bill of Duties" Is Topic For Library Discussion
Buy U. S. War Bonds and Stamps

Other items mentioned in the first issue included the appointment of Thomas Mann as consultant in German literature; the arrival at the Library of the "outstanding South American writer" Luis Alberto Sanchez and announcements of publications, exhibitions, meetings and luncheons, including the Tuesday Staff Luncheon during which "Alan Lomax, of the Archive of Amer. Folk Song, will sing, present documentary recordings on reactions of people to the war."

Following is a selective sampling of individual issues and historical highlights affecting the *Information Bulletin* and its development.

Jan. 23, 1942. The first issue of the *Staff Information Bulletin* is published as a two-page, mimeographed broadsheet.

Dec. 15, 1942. The first printed issue (left) is published, authorized by the Library's Advisory Committee on Publications.

April 12, 1943. The *Staff Information Bulletin* publishes its first photograph,

Information Bulletin

Washington, D. C., July 1943 No. 1

EXHIBITS

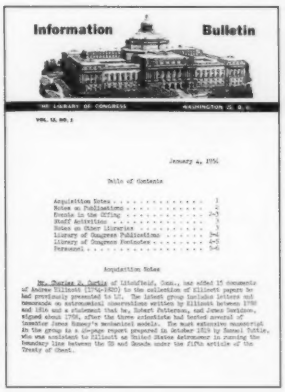
Bulletin Are Combined

Work Fund Termination Ends War Service Section

Mr. James Bogan Work As New Law Librarian

William A. Slocum, Ar. Is Staff Member

Calendar of Events


Information Bulletin

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

VOL. 12, NO. 2

January 4, 1954

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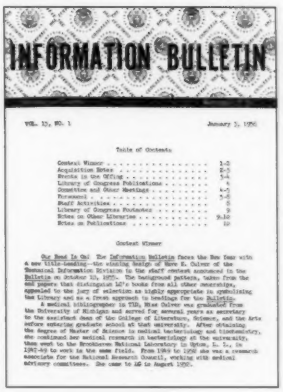
Acquisition Notes

Mr. Thurlow R. Curtis of Litchfield, Conn., has added 15 documents of Andrew Ellicott (1754-1820) to the collection of Ellicott papers he had previously presented to LC. The latest group includes letters and memoranda on astronomical observations written by Ellicott between 1790 and 1814 and a statement that he, Robert Patterson, and James Hutchison, signed about 1796, affirm the three scientists had tested several of Jonathan Janes Rumsey's mechanical models. The most extensive manuscript in the group is a 24-page report prepared in October 1814 by Samuel Dutton, who was assistant to Ellicott as United States Astronomer in running the boundary line between the US and Canada under the fifth article of the Treaty of Ghent.


INFORMATION BULLETIN

VOL. 12, NO. 1 January 3, 1956

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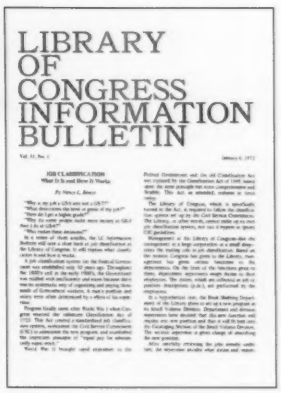
General Winner

Our Need Is On! The Information Bulletin faces the New Year with a new title-heading--the winning design of Mrs E. Palmer of the Technical Information Division in the staff contest announced in the Bulletin on October 10, 1955. The background pattern, taken from the end papers that distinguish LC's books from all other ownerships, appealed to the jury of selection as highly appropriate in symbolizing the Library and as a fresh approach to headings for the Bulletin.


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 31, No. 1 January 6, 1972

"The Shrine"in the Great Hall, which displays the original copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The lead article describes the opening of the Library's exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth.

July 1943. The title changes to *Information Bulletin* (above, left).

July 25-Aug. 1, 1945. The *Bulletin* once again becomes a mimeographed publication. A "Notice" at the top of the first page announces that "Beginning with this issue, the INFORMATION BULLETIN of the Library of Congress resumes the weekly schedule under which it began publication on Jan. 23, 1942. The new format, as well as the change in the nature of its contents, follows a recommendation made by the Committee on Bibliography and Publications that the printed bulletin be suspended and replaced by a weekly calendar of events. Wartime printing conditions, as well as manpower problems incidental to its preparation, have made it impossible to continue the fuller, printed publication. No issues of the INFORMATION BULLETIN have appeared since last October."

Sept. 12-19, 1945. Approximately three months after taking office, Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans begins contributing "The Librarian's Page" to the *Bulletin*. Here are two of the first entries: "Miss Bogan has begun her service as Consultant in Poetry in English. Members of the staff interested in the field of Miss Bogan's work are invited to call on her," and "John G. Bradley, Director of the Motion Picture Project, and his staff are occupying the office of the Chief Assistant Librarian until suitable quarters can be arranged for them elsewhere. Miss Pauline Evans has recently been appointed secretary to the Director."

Jan. 12, 1946. The first staff photo in the *Information Bulletin*, part of "The Librarian's Page," features Librarian Evans with uniformed members of "our acquisitions mission to Germany," just prior to leaving Washington, D.C., "to board the good ship Queen Mary in New York."

Jan. 2, 1951. A new *Bulletin* masthead includes, in one corner, a sketch of the Jefferson Building. A Table of Contents is introduced.

Jan. 4, 1954. A new masthead (above, center left) stretches across the top of the page and features an engraving of the Jefferson Building.

Jan. 3, 1956. The next new *Bulletin* masthead (above, center right) highlights a design based on the Library's government symbol as it has been adapted for use as endpapers in books belonging the Library.

Jan. 6, 1972. The *Bulletin* begins production (for the first time since 1945) as a printed rather than as a mimeographed publication (above right).

Jan. 28, 1977. The Librarian's Task Force on Goals, Organization and Planning describes the *Information Bulletin* as "a melange of staff news, Library announcements, and professional news for the general library community" and recommends "a separation of these functions and a strengthening of each" by creating two different publications.

Jan. 5, 1979. In response to a readership survey, the *Bulletin* undertakes several changes in format and arrangement. One of the first is a separate insert, entitled "Staff News" and distributed only to Library staff members.

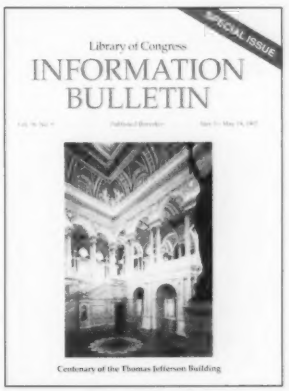
1989. Dr. Billington's Management and Planning Committee recommends the creation of a separate staff newsletter.

April 6, 1990. The Library publishes the first issue of *The Gazette*, "A Weekly Newspaper for the Library Staff" (right). Freed from the need of publishing staff news, the *Information Bulletin* broadens its editorial perspective and library community coverage and changes from a weekly to a biweekly publication.

May 5-May 19, 1997. A special *Information Bulletin* issue (below), with more than 30 color photographs, celebrates the centenary of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building.

July 1997. The *Information Bulletin* becomes a monthly publication. Its circulation is approximately 12,000. ◆

Mr. Cole is director of the Center for the Book and co-chair of the Bicentennial Steering Committee.


SPECIAL ISSUE

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Centenary of the Thomas Jefferson Building

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Gazette

Librarian Asks Senate to Support Record Budget

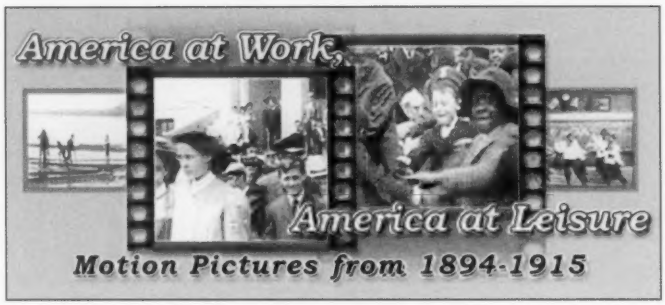
Journalist Exhibition Opens After Months Of Detailed Planning

Billington Seeks $326 Million; Cites Eroded Resources

America at Work, School and Play

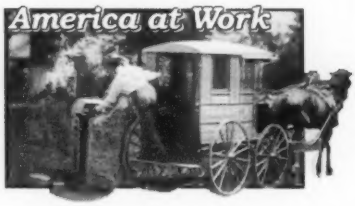
Web Films Document American Culture, 1894-1915

By KAREN C. LUND



The period from 1894 to 1915 was one of dramatic transition in the lifestyles of the average U.S. citizen. Work, school and leisure activities changed rapidly from mostly agrarian activities to the beginnings of an industrial and technological age at the turn of the century. A new online presentation, from the Library's popular American Memory Web site (**www.loc.gov**), documents these changes with the addition of 150 films depicting America at work, school and play at the turn of the century.

"America at Work, America at Leisure, 1894-1915," from the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, shows how technology changed Americans' lives in profound ways. (All of the films are available in three formats: MPEG, Quicktime and RealMedia.)



For the workers of America, the period 1894 to 1915 was one of change, unrest and economic uncertainty. Industrialism was growing largely unchecked after the Civil War, creating new jobs as well as new problems. Immigration was continuing in unprecedented numbers, especially from Eastern and Southern Europe, forever altering the makeup of the workforce. A depression had begun in 1893, following on the heels of two others within 20 years, forcing some plants to close and many workers into the ranks of the unemployed. Disputes between labor and management were rife. From these tumultuous years grew many of the initiatives that have continued today, including the increased presence of women in the workforce, workers' benefits, the prevalence of white-collar and retail jobs and the need for reasonable work hours, vacations and safe working conditions.

In the 1890s, cities grew as more Americans took urban jobs. As one of the leading industrial powers of the period, the United States had a variety of enterprises, including the manufacture of iron, steel, crude oil and textiles. This trend marked a shift from a more agrarian way of life to that of labor for wages. Immigrants generally would arrive in the cities and take up factory work there to make a living. Working-class and immigrant families often needed multiple family members, including women and children, to work in factories to survive.

Working conditions in these factories were harsh. Workdays were long, typically 10 to 12 hours, and the often unsafe conditions could lead to deadly accidents. Tasks tended to be divided for efficiency's sake, which led to repetitive and monotonous work for employees. Examples of this type of work can be found in the jobs portrayed in films of the Westinghouse Works in 1904, which show, for example, women repetitively winding armatures or men welding large metal rings for generators. Ironically, these films were intended to illustrate what was thought to be an extremely modern and well-run factory for the time.

Fortunately, there were many people who deplored the excesses of American business and called for reform. During what was known as the Progressive Era, generally thought to be from 1900 to World War I, reformers sought to improve the lot of the underprivileged of America by speaking out against perceived wrongs. During President Woodrow Wilson's tenure, Progressive principles were furthered when statutes were passed for an eight-hour workday for railroad workers, worker's compensation and regulation of child labor.

In response to criticisms aimed at industry, some companies instituted "welfare capitalism," in which they would give an employee special benefits to secure loyalty and to prevent the creation of unions. Some of the benefits included subsidized housing, libraries and social clubs for the employees. The Westinghouse Works films (1904) are an example of such initiatives that ultimately failed when unionism became more powerful in the United States.

This period also saw the rapid growth of white-collar jobs, as industrial capitalism led to the need for more administrative and clerical workers. Such workers began to be classified with managers in the census as opposed to being classified with skilled craftsmen and unskilled labor. The white-collar workers were further distinguished by earning salaries as opposed to wages by the hour or piece work. White-collar jobs required at least a high school education and a certain refinement in manners and dress that the blue-collar jobs did not. A stratification began to emerge in society that made white-collar jobs seem more prestigious than blue-collar ones. Children of immigrants would aspire to such jobs to increase their social standing in a society that was often prejudiced against newcomers.

Although industry was the primary force of this period, other traditional work activities continued. Farms were still maintained across the country, although this work was likely to be

The Cleveland Fire Company puts its pumpers, hook-and-ladder wagons, and personnel wagons through a drill in this film shot by G.W. Bitzer for the American Mutoscope & Biograph Co. in 1903; rural free delivery of the mail is captured in this 1903 film shot by A.E. Wood, American Mutoscope & Biograph Co.

subject to periods of financial instability, as profits relied on the unpredictability of the marketplace and crops. In the West, cities sprang up around the massive cattle trade. Films such as "Calf Branding," filmed in Colorado in 1898, show some of the tasks performed.

This era also saw the increase of department stores and retail jobs in urban areas. Industrial capitalism had succeeded in producing more goods for the consumer to buy, which led to the increased need for sales people. Retail jobs were seen by many to be more respectable than factory work, especially for women, who were finding increasing opportunities in this venue.

Although this period saw an escalation of women working outside the home, society dictated limited choices for them. Occupations that were considered respectable for women at the time included factory work, frequently in the garment or textile industries, teaching, nursing, domestic service, work in department stores or clerical work in offices. Women were paid less than men, even for doing the same jobs, because men were perceived as the family breadwinners and women were thought to be better suited to domesticity (even though many women had worked outside the home for years). Films that show the Westinghouse Works and the pharmaceutical employees of Parke Davis are a testament to the entry of women into the workplace at this time.

A series of films of the U.S. Postal Service's operations in 1903 is a special highlight of the presentation. Most of the postal films were shot in Washington, D.C., most likely at the Washington City Post Office (first occupied in 1898 and still standing today, known as the Old Post Office Pavilion). The motion pictures of rural free delivery service (instituted in 1896) were filmed in adjacent areas of Maryland.

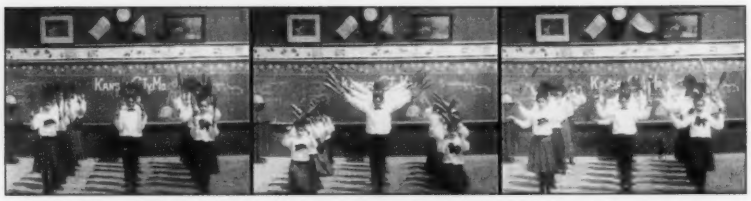
Other films in the work section demonstrate a wide variety of jobs, including logging, ice manufacture, coal mining and public service workers such as police and fire fighters.

From 1894 to 1915, the goals of Progressive reformers influenced education in the United States, since education was perceived as a way to teach children the proper values needed to be a productive American citizen. It was thought that society's ills could, in part, be alleviated by education for all classes that would prepare children for their role in society. Public education was also seen as a way to "Americanize" the vast number of immigrant children flooding into cities. Compulsory attendance laws were enacted to ensure that children from all classes received a basic, "common" education in elementary grades.

Fewer children attended high school, since those from immigrant and working-class families often had to work to help support the family. High schools were typically attended by middle-and upper-class students who aspired to white-collar jobs or a higher academic education. As an improved economy brought slightly higher wages after 1900, more working-class families started sending their children to high school in the hope that they, too, could achieve better jobs. Vocational and industrial programs in high schools were offered by reformers during this period in large part to entice the working class and poor to stay in school and to prepare them adequately for what was thought to be their appropriate role in society.

European ideas of schooling, especially German, influenced the schools in America by the late 1800s, most notably by emulating the German kindergartens and industrial schools. The first kindergarten was established in Germany in 1837, and appeared in the United States in 1856. In kindergarten, creative activities were used to stimulate a child's inner potential. Although the earliest kindergartens were private and for the privileged, the idea soon expanded by the end of 19th century to public schools, where they were seen by reformers as a tonic for the poor home environments of the underprivileged. Industrial training was thought by some to be part of Germany's success as an industrial power and would serve to siphon those who would not go to college to appropriate working-class careers. But this training was not so successful as reformers had hoped it would be, in large part because working-class parents aspired for their children to receive academic educations and gain white-collar jobs as a result.

After 1900, as more achieved a high school education, high schools gradually took on the ideals of the "common" school that elementary schools had espoused. Colleges and universities, however, remained the haven of



Elementary school children from the Hyde Park School, Kansas City, Mo., perform physical exercises in a film by A.E. Weed for the American Mutoscope & Biograph Co.; the end of a school day at a coeducational school (1914?), thought to be by Thomas Edison's film company.

the elite, as typically only the middle or upper classes could afford to send their children there. Although hundreds of colleges were established after the Civil War, universities began to grow in rapid number beginning in the 1890s. Universities and, later, colleges started offering a wider curriculum and choice of electives. Universities offered graduate education beyond college and opportunities for research within fields.

Several minority groups suffered worse deprivations in education than even the immigrant groups had endured. African Americans in the Southern states often had to attend segregated schools with inferior resources, because the states typically gave such schools only nominal support. In general, African Americans in Northern cities had better neighborhood schools than those in the South. At the turn of the century, African Americans in the North had school attendance rates equal to or better than white students, even for high school.

During this period, the federal government mandated the establishment of special schools for American Indians. The schools were designed to assimilate Native American children into the American culture by stripping them of much of their heritage. Some attended reservation day schools, while others attended boarding schools. These children were not only removed from their parents, sometimes forcibly, but also from American Indian influence. Although administered by the federal government, conditions at these schools were frequently poor. In many cases the system was badly managed, with a lack of proper facilities, hygiene and educational materials. One of these schools is shown in the brief film "Indian Day School," which was filmed at Isleta, N.M., in 1898.

Several of the motion pictures in this section focus on physical education in the schools at all levels. School reformers, recognizing the importance of exercise for both sexes, instituted physical education programs on a wide scale in the 1890s. Intercollegiate sports such as football, baseball, and track and field became popular at colleges and universities. Collegiate sports were also instituted for women during this period, although female students were typically involved in less strenuous sports than men. Some popular sports for female college students were basketball, gymnastics and dance.

From 1894 to 1915, workers in the United States began to have more leisure time than their predecessors, as industrial employers began to decrease working hours and institute a Saturday half-day holiday. Vacations also began to be offered, although they were usually unpaid. The monotony of specialized industrial work and the crowding of urban expansion also created a desire in the worker to have leisure time away from the job and away from the bustle of the city. The popularity of Progressivism in politics also contributed to the value of leisure time, as the health and well-being of the working class came under scrutiny by the upper classes. Yet another factor was the installation of electric lighting in the city streets, making nighttime leisure activities less dangerous.

People responded to the increasing amount of free time by attending a variety of leisure activities both inside and outside the city. New types of amusements arose in which people of all classes and both sexes could participate.

Within cities, people attended vaudeville shows, which would feature a multitude of acts. Shows often ran continuously so that theatergoers could come and go as they pleased, and they drew their audiences from people of all walks of life and backgrounds. Other popular shows of the time included circuses and Wild West shows, the most famous of the latter being William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's, shown in "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Parade," filmed in 1902.

Motion pictures also served as entertainment during leisure time for urban audiences. Initially the movies were novelties in kinetoscope viewers. As they became longer, motion pictures moved into storefront nickelodeon theaters and then into even larger theaters. One theater in New York City from 1915 can be seen in the film "Claremont Theatre, N.Y.," where the marquee announces that an Edison Co. film is playing.

Outdoor activities became popular as people attended celebratory parades and county fairs, the latter featuring agricultural products, machinery, competitions and rides, as shown in the film "Rube Couple at County Fair," filmed in Connecticut in 1904.

Some people wished to leave the city on their vacations. Those with limited budgets went to the countryside or the beaches. Toward the latter part of the 19th century, resorts opened in the outskirts of cities, such as Asbury Park, N.J., which was founded in 1870. Amusement parks opened in places like Coney Island, founded in 1897, offering rides, fun houses, ethnic villages

and the latest technological breakthroughs, such as motion pictures. A brief tour of Coney Island circa 1903 can be seen in "Rube and Mandy at Coney Island" (a "rube" was a country bumpkin). National parks were created by the federal government to preserve nature, and many people vacationed there. At Yellowstone Park, for example, many camped or stayed at hotels built in the late 1880s. Some of these tourists can be seen in "Tourists Going Round Yellowstone Park," filmed in 1899.

World's fairs and expositions held in different U.S. cities offered Americans a chance to "tour the world" while remaining in one place. The fairs celebrated progress and featured exhibits of science and technology, foreign villages, shows, rides and vendors. The first major world's fair was the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876, which was followed by many others. Films in the presentation contain scenes of fairs in multiple cities, including Buffalo (1901), Charleston, S.C., (1902), St. Louis (1904) and San Diego (1915).

After the Civil War, the popularity of sports activities grew, as people began to see the importance of exercise to health. While initially only the well-to-do could participate in most sporting events, the opening of publicly available gymnasiums, courts and fields allowed the working and middle classes to participate. Athletic clubs such as the New York Athletic Club were organized, and the YMCAs began to institute sports programs. These programs mostly focused on track and field events, instituted by Scottish and English communities, and gymnastics, heavily influenced by German athletics. Gymnasiums, which featured Indian clubs, wooden rings and dumbbells, were opened in many Eastern cities.

Although men performed the majority of sports activities at this time, opportunities for women to participate appeared as the 19th century ended. Sports in which women participated included canoeing, rowing and walking, although by the turn of the century schools began to offer even more sports activities for females, such as gymnastics and basketball.

A group of boys leap off a pier and into the water near Honolulu, filmed by Robert Bonine for the American Mutoscope & Biograph Co.; in "Babies Rolling Eggs" from Thomas Edison's company, a group of children throw and scramble after eggs on the White House lawn in 1902.

Spectator sports became popular as people flocked to boxing events and different types of races. Although boxing was initially frowned on because of the violence and gambling associated with it, by the 1890s the Marquis of Queensberry's code was adopted, imposing limits on the game, which made the sport somewhat safer. By the early 20th century, its adoption in athletic clubs, YMCAs, and colleges gave boxing a measure of respectability. Three films depict the popularity of boxing in 1894 and 1907.

Three films feature horse races, which were initially supported by the wealthy, but were attended by people of all classes by the end of the 19th century. Yacht races were also initially more popular for the rich, but the America's Cup, begun in 1870, increased the sport's popularity, as shown in "'Columbia' Winning the Cup," filmed in 1899.

"The roller skating craze" as filmed by Selig, 1907.

Other popular races included rowing, sailing, motorboat and automobile races, the last category beginning in the 1890s.

Team sports such as baseball, basketball and football became wildly popular with Americans, who enjoyed the games both as participants and spectators. Baseball had its origins in the English games of rounders and cricket and started as an adult game in New York during the 1840s. By the 1850s, the sport rapidly spread to many parts of the country, as teams were formed from all classes and ages of society. Baseball rapidly became more organized as it became America's pastime. The film "The Ball Game," produced in 1898, features teams from Newark and Reading, N.J.

Derived from the English game of rugby, football was started in 1879 with rules instituted by Walter Camp, player and coach at Yale University. "Chicago-Michigan Football Game" and "Princeton and Yale Football Game" depict two university football games in 1903.

Basketball derived from the need for an indoor sport during the winter months. James Nasmith, an instructor at the YMCA Training School at Springfield, Mass., devised the game in 1891. Soon YMCAs and colleges around the country began playing the game. Basketball was adapted for women at schools around the country with different rules in the 1890s. In 1899, a

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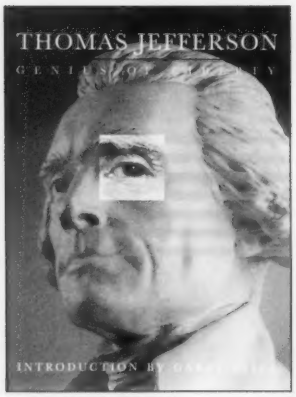
Publication Awards

Library Books Garner Several Design Honors



Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty
hardbound, 208 pages,
175 illustrations, $35

With essays by prominent scholars, this companion volume to a Library of Congress exhibition examines documents from the rare and important holdings of the Library as well as other artifacts relating to Jefferson's life and legacy.

Five Library of Congress publications have been cited for design excellence by the Washington Book Publishers and the American Association of Museums.

"We are honored that the Library's publications continue to be recognized for design excellence by the publishing and museum communities, both for their beauty and their design effectiveness in featuring the Library's resources," said W. Ralph Eubanks, the Library's director for publishing.

Held in Washington on May 25, the 15th Annual Washington Book Publishers Design Effectiveness Competition presented the Library with three awards for illustrated books: first prize (interiors, three or more colors) for *Life of the People: Realist Prints and Drawings from the Ben and Beatrice Goldstein Collection, 1912-1948;* second prize (jackets/covers, three or more colors) for *The Declaration of Independence: The Evolution of the Text* (co-published with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation); and third prize (interiors, three or more colors) for *Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty* (co-published with Viking Studio).

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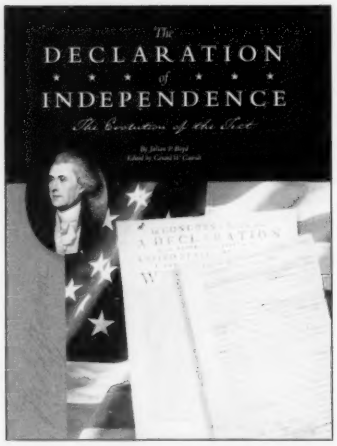
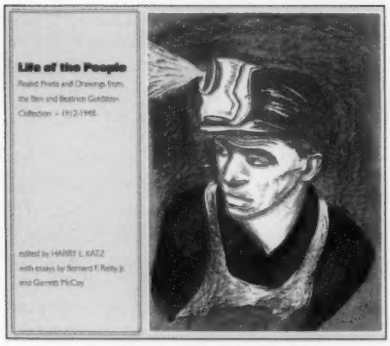


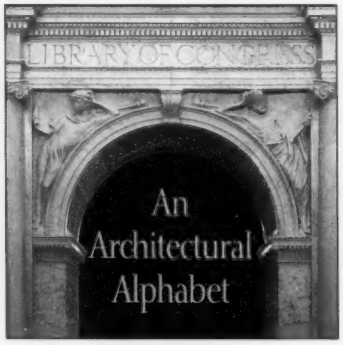
The Declaration of Independence: The Evolution of the Text
hardbound, 102 pages, 47 illustrations, $29.95

Out of print for more than 40 years, this study now in a new edition once again brings together photographic reproductions of all known drafts of the Declaration of Independence, including a newly discovered fragment not known to Jefferson scholar Julian P. Boyd when he did his original study.


Life of the People
Realist Prints and Drawings from the Ben and Beatrice Goldstein Collection • 1912-1948
edited by HARRY L. KATZ
with essays by Bernard F. Reilly Jr. and Garrett McCoy

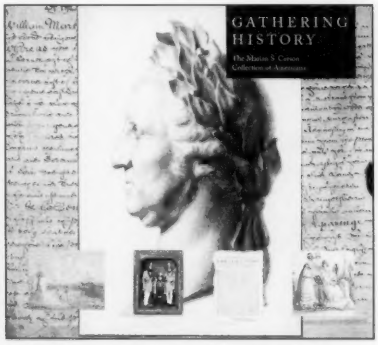
Life of the People: Realist Prints and Drawings from the Ben and Beatrice Goldstein Collection, 1912-1948
softcover, 119 pages, 59 illustrations, $19.95

This companion volume to a Library of Congress exhibition includes 59 works on paper by leading North American artists that reflect collector Ben Goldstein's interest in New York City, and the American people, especially during the Depression.



Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet
hardbound, 64 pages,
60 illustrations, $17.95

From A for arch to Z for zigzag, this book explores the Jefferson Building's unusual architectural details, created at the end of the 19th century by some 50 artists and artisans. The colorful alphabet is drawn from the Library's unique collections.



Gathering History: The Marian S. Carson Collection of Americana
softcover, 124 pages,
125 illustrations, $24.95

In illustrated essays, noted historian Robert V. Remini and Library specialists show how the Carson Collection of Americana, containing material from the Colonial period through the centennial of 1876, may change our understanding of early American history.

Awards
continued from page 208

Two Library publications received honorable mention at the 2000 Museum Publications Design Competition, held May 14-18 in Baltimore and sponsored by the American Association of Museums. *Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet* (co-published with Pomegranate) and *Gathering History: The Marian S. Carson Collection of Americana* received this honor "in recognition of the highest standard of excellence." *Gathering History* garnered first prize for both interiors and jacket/cover design at last year's Washington Book Publishers Design Effectiveness Competition.

These and other Library publications are available in major bookstores and from the Library of Congress Sales Shops (Credit card orders: 202-707-0204). ◆

New from NLS

Catalog Upgraded for Web-Braille Readers

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has announced a new feature that links its *International Union Catalog* for braille and audio materials to its Internet Web-Braille system. Web-Braille books may now be accessed directly from the catalog by using author, title, subject, language, keywords and other search parameters.

Web-Braille, inaugurated on Aug. 24, 1999, became a milestone in the history of library service for blind and visually handicapped individuals by providing eligible braille readers with a direct channel to thousands of electronic braille files. The free Internet braille program has 1,000 patrons registered. More than 3,000 Web-Braille titles are available to individuals, schools and libraries with Internet connections and braille output devices such as braille embossers or refreshable braille displays. The online collection is growing at the rate of about 40 titles every month, and a selection of online national magazines will be available in the very near future.

During its first 10 months, the Web-Braille program offered only limited search options; but, because of its unprecedented success, an initiative was launched to enhance the accessibility of available books.

"The enthusiasm that greeted the Web-Braille program called for an accelerated response by NLS to the wishes of patrons for improved search capabilities," said Robert Axtell, head of the NLS Bibliographic Control Section. "The undertaking involved a united effort by Library of Congress information technology specialists; Judith Dixon, NLS consumer relations officer; and members of the NLS Bibliographic Control Section, all working together to realize for our braille-reading constituency the full functionality of the automated catalog."

The fully searchable records of the *International Union Catalog* contain direct links to the electronic Web-Braille files. For books that are available through Web-Braille, searchers of the catalog will receive a message that notes the availability of the book as a grade 2 braille digital file. New users of the system are directed to register with a cooperating network library to establish their free user identification and password. Registered readers may proceed directly from the catalog to the online text of the book they want with a single keystroke.

The NLS *International Union Catalog* is a database of records for finding books in braille and recorded formats. The 325,000 titles listed are from the NLS collection as well as other agencies serving blind and disabled readers throughout the English-speaking world. Readers may search the full catalog of books in all special formats—including an option for books that are in process—or choose to limit their search to Web-Braille titles.

For further information contact: Robert E. Fistick, Head, Publications and Media Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542; telephone: (202) 707-9279; e-mail: rfis@loc.gov. ◆

Films
continued from page 207

standard set of rules for women was adopted. Women from Missouri Valley College can be seen on the Web site playing basketball in 1904.

The films also depict other sporting activities performed during this time, such as roller skating, bicycling, swimming, ice skating, sleighing, hunting and fishing.

Swimming became more popular in the latter part of the century, as women were increasingly allowed to swim in mixed company. There are nine films in the presentation showing men, women and children swimming in places such as Atlantic City, Honolulu, Coney Island, San Francisco, Palm Beach and New York.

The films in "America at Work, America at Leisure" offer ample evidence of the lives Americans led a hundred years ago. Film audiences of the time would have been amused and intrigued to see themselves on the screen, working, attending school or out enjoying their leisure time. For today's viewer, these films are historical documents of America's past and reveal the origins of many activities we still engage in today. ◆

Ms. Lund is a digital conversion specialist for the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound team in the National Digital Library Program. She worked on the "America at Work, America at Leisure" project with Library staffers Marc Dudley, Hussein Hassan and Marco Samayoa. The Web page was designed by Tracey Salley.

A National Celebration

Library's Bicentennial Reaches Across the Nation

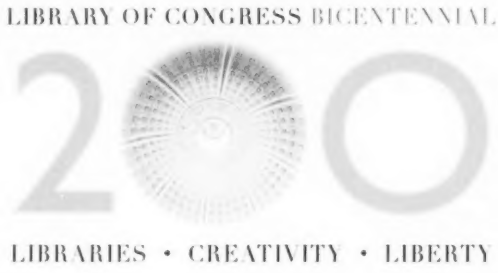
BY AUDREY FISCHER

The Bicentennial of the Library of Congress was celebrated not only in Washington on April 24, but also across the nation. From second-day issue cancellation ceremonies for the Library's commemorative postage stamp to oversize birthday cards signed by entire communities, the nation joined in the effort to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Library's founding. As "Sesame Street's" Big Bird posed with a giant birthday cake on the steps of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, public and state libraries throughout the nation held their own birthday parties to honor the occasion.

Working with the American Library Association, the Library distributed 30,000 Toolkits last summer outlining how the library community could participate in the Bicentennial celebration and use the occasion to celebrate all libraries. Featuring a "Why Do You Love Libraries?" poster, a fact sheet on the history of libraries and a stand-up guide to the Library's online American Memory collections, the Toolkit also outlined fun and interesting ways for patrons to honor their local libraries. By establishing a "Why My Local Library Is Important to Me" bulletin board or sponsoring a "Library Appreciation Day," patrons were invited to highlight the importance of their libraries to their communities.

Illinois was one of many states that heeded the call. Sponsored by the Illinois State Library, the Schaumburg Township District Library participated in a statewide essay contest on "What My Library Means to Me." Several of these essays appeared in *What My Library Means to Me: A Special Report in Honor of the Library of Congress Bicentennial* issued by state librarian Jesse White. Among them were these words submitted by Julie Desch and daughters Hannah (third grade) and Kayla (kindergarten): "To us, the library means family time. Once a week we make a trip to our new library in Schaumburg and check out books, CDs, video and computer software. All these things are available to us for free. ... The library means providing my children with the culture they will not be able to experience firsthand, but through their imagination."

Coming on the heels of National Library Week (April 9-15), many libraries included the nation's library in their weeklong celebrations. Falvey Memorial Library at Pennsylvania's Villanova University mounted a display featuring the art and architecture of the Library of Congress and interesting facts about the institution. Connecticut's Monroe Public Library mounted an exhibition on how local librarians create bibliographic records for local materials following the standards established by "the mother of all libraries, the Library of Congress."



Other libraries linked the celebration to their own historic milestones. Marking the 100th anniversary of the first public library in Marysville, Kan., local columnist Barbara Read, *(Marysville Advocate)* began several of her "Books and More" columns with a series of articles on the local library's history. Noting the recent publication of Margaret Truman's *Murder at the Library of Congress*, she declared, "We intend to celebrate our anniversary without the dead body—even if it means that nobody writes a book about us."

Arkansas' Boone County Library, in conjunction with the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrated its centennial with a birthday party, time capsule, second-day issue stamp cancellation ceremony and a program stressing the importance of libraries in a democratic republic. Presentations included a history of the Library of Congress and an explanation of how the nation's library is making its vast resources available on the Internet.

Several libraries used the opportunity to announce plans for expansion. The Huron Public Library (Sandusky, Ohio) hosted a "bring-your-own-shovel" groundbreaking ceremony to kick off an effort to double the library's current size. Similarly, Dover Plains Library (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) announced its plans to move to a new home while unveiling the Library's commemorative stamp.

Libraries were also encouraged to host local programs similar to those of the Library of Congress. These included documenting local customs and traditions, honoring local living legends and hosting "favorite poem" poetry readings—all of which the Library of Congress has done on a national level. The Milton Branch Library (Milton, W. Va.) did all three. In addition to requesting "Why My Local Library Is Important to Me" essays, the Milton Branch Library assembled a Local Legacies time capsule, asked its patrons to describe or photograph a local living legend and sponsored a "favorite poem" event in April in honor of National Poetry Month.

To celebrate the Library's Bicentennial and to mark the last year of the four-year "Building a Nation of Readers" initiative, the Library's Center for the Book invited libraries, schools, corporations and educational, civic and governmental organizations to sponsor reading promotion projects. From Alabama to Wyoming, descriptions of regional projects are accessible on the Center's Web site at **www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook**. Also included on this Web site are descriptions of national reading promotion campaigns.

The Library's Bicentennial celebration will continue through December 2000. For program information, visit the Library's Bicentennial Web site at **www.loc.gov/bicentennial**. ◆

Ms. Fischer is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.

Gifts to the Nation Attracts International Contributions

BY ADRIANNE NASH

The celebration of the Library's Bicentennial would not be complete without the participation of the Library's international friends and neighbors.

Since the International Gifts to the Nation project was initiated last fall, more than 30 foreign embassies in Washington have given the Library some 800 items, ranging from rare volumes to coffee table books, from videos and compact discs to limited-edition decorative religious texts.

"We're delighted to find new ways to engage the nations of the world in the life of the Library of Congress," said Carolyn Brown, assistant librarian for library services and acting director of Area Studies. "The spirit with which these gifts was given was very generous, heartfelt and touching."

The International Gifts to the Nation project is an extension of the successful "Gifts to the Nation," one of the Bicentennial's major projects. Through the generosity of private donors, the Library received more than $47 million in donations and gifts.

Thirty-seven million dollars in gifts was given by members of the Library's Madison Council, a private sector advisory group of 103 prominent cultural, business and philanthropic leaders.

One of the most ambitious Gifts to the Nation projects is the reconstitution of the original core of the Library's vast and diverse personal collection of Thomas Jefferson.

"The importance of the Gifts to the Nation project cannot be overestimated," said Dr. Billington. "Even the world's largest library needs to continue to enrich its collections with important items. The re-creation of Jefferson's library and the acquisition of other rare items that the Library is seeking will benefit our millions of patrons worldwide."

In October 1999, the Librarian of Congress wrote 175 embassies inviting them to join in celebrating the Library's Bicentennial and its 200-year tradition of collecting research materials from all over the world, in all languages of the world. In his letter, the Librarian explained Jefferson's influence.

"The Library's collections have been international since its earliest days, when the United States purchased ... the magnificent personal library of our third president, Thomas Jefferson," Dr. Billington said in his letter. "He believed that international knowledge was essential to a legislative body, and many of his books were in foreign languages. His vision of a universal collection that preserved the world's intellectual heritage continues to guide the Library to this day." He also noted that more than half of the Library's collections are in languages other than English.

Dr. Billington then invited the embassies to give "an item that the Library is unlikely to already have—something that embodies your nation's achievements or culture."

Once they arrive, the items for the collections are held in one of the four Area Studies divisions. Materials from English-speaking nations are also temporarily secured in one of these divisions. On Oct, 5, they will be displayed during

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Commemorative Coins a Big Success

On April 24, the U.S. Mint issued two coins in honor of the Library's Bicentennial. Sales of the silver and bimetallic commemorative coins were brisk on the first day they were available, when they were sold in the Library's Jefferson and Madison buildings. Representatives from the U.S. Mint reported they had never sold so many coins during a launch event (more than 2,700 silver coins and 300 of the more expensive gold and platinum bimetallic coins).

The Library of Congress's coins continue to be one of the Mint's success stories for its commemorative coin program—226,255 silver coins and 30,729 bimetallic coins had been sold as of July 28. Interest in the coins may be the result of their historic nature and unique qualities—they are the Mint's first commemorative coins for 2000 and the first honoring a library. The stunning design of the gold and platinum coin features the hand of Minerva (the Roman goddess of wisdom) raising up the "torch of learning" with the Jefferson Building in the background. The coin is the first bimetallic coin ever issued by the Mint.

Although the numismatic community is the largest group to buy these commemoratives, there have been many sales to individuals who love libraries and these coins, in particular, for their association with the Library of Congress.

Roberta Stevens, Bicentennial program manager, noted that "the silver proof commemorative coin is quite affordable at $32 and is a very special gift for a library's friends, donors and staff." The bimetallic coin is $425.

The Library of Congress commemorative coins may be purchased through the U.S. Mint's Web site (**www.usmint.gov**) or by calling toll-free (800) USA-MINT. The coins may also be purchased from the Library's Sales Shop by calling (202) 707-0204. ◆

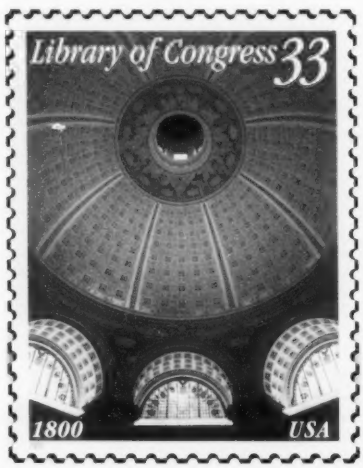
'Second-Day' Stamp Events Held Across the Nation

By KATHY WOODRELL

On April 24, the U.S. Postal Service sold 46,000 Library of Congress commemorative stamps exclusively at the Library of Congress. Although the first day of issue in Washington was one of several prominent events, thousands of people attended "second-day" ceremonies for the commemorative stamp at more than 200 public, state, academic, school and special libraries across the nation. The term "second day of issue" is used to denote any stamp issuance event after the first day of issue. Most libraries held events between April 25 and May 31, although a few libraries, such as the Milton (Delaware) Public Library, held events later to coincide with a local celebration—in this case, the annual hot-air balloon festival in Milton.

Libraries around the country were encouraged to embody the American Library Association theme "Libraries Build Community." Although many libraries used their second-day issue events to forge or strengthen partnerships with local groups or organizations, to commemorate a local anniversary or to celebrate the founding of their own library systems, several viewed the program as a great reason for a party.

More than 600 libraries requested a stamp-issue-event planning kit from this writer, who served as the second-day issue sites program manager. All told, 220 libraries in 43 states and Puerto Rico held events.



A collage of second-day issue cachets.

During the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago in early July, the George C. Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library (the system's first branch to promote African American literary culture) was given a National Literary Landmark Award by Friends of Libraries USA. Chicago Postmaster Rufus Porter presented a matted and framed plate of the Library's Bicentennial stamp to Mary A. Dempsey, Chicago Public Library commissioner. The Library's commemorative stamp was also featured on the giveaway cover at the event.

Many libraries invited congressional, state and local officials to take part in stamp events. Rep. Rush Holt from New Jersey's 12th District spoke at the South Brunswick Public Library's unveiling of the Library of Congress stamp. Kansas Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer attended the ceremony at the Lebo Branch of the Coffey County Library. At the Meadville Public Library in Pennsylvania, Mayor Richard Friedberg, a professional philatelist, made a brief presentation — both as the mayor and a stamp dealer.

Other second-day events include:

- Two Ohio libraries used stamp-issue celebrations to spotlight or plan a new building. The Huron Public Library combined the stamp event with the groundbreaking ceremony for a new library building, and the Fairport Harbor Public Library took advantage of the event to highlight plans for renovating the library and building a new senior citizen center.
- Both the Florida Library Association and the Oklahoma Library Association held second-day issue events as part of their annual conference. In Tuscaloosa, Ala., four libraries, the Tuscaloosa Public Library, the University of Alabama Library, Stillman College Libraries and Shelton State Community College Libraries, held a cooperative celebration.
- Two hundred people attended an event sponsored by Salisbury, N.C.'s Rowan Public Library held at the China Grove Roller Mill Museum; the small town of China Grove holds a place in postal history as the site of the first rural free delivery in North Caro-

lina and one of the first three sites in the country.

• The Saline (Michigan) District Library planned its event to celebrate the library's centennial. Rare items from the collections were on display, and the public was encouraged to bring in books to be appraised by local book dealers.

• The Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning in Madison held a cooperative event for the Wisconsin Library Association and the State Historical Society. It also developed an easily adaptable cancellation for participating Wisconsin libraries throughout the state.

• Many participating libraries created special envelopes or "cachets" for fund-raising purposes. The Illinois State Library cachet featured Abraham Lincoln; profts from the second-day cover will benefit the Illinois Center for the Book.

• Friends of the Norwalk Public Library (Ohio) offered cachets designed by Martin Buchanan; all proceeds will benefit library programs. The Traverse Area District Library in Traverse City, Mich., also used the second-day event to raise funds.

• The Wyoming State Library developed a cachet combining a photograph of Mabel Wilkinson, a librarian in Platte and Park counties in the early 1900s, with an advertisement for a librarian. The candidate "must be able to get along with western people, ride and drive, as well as pack a horse, follow a trail, shoot straight, run an automobile and be able to rough it whenever necessary."

The California State Library held a second-day stamp ceremony on April 25, 2000. Participants included (from left): Benjamin Torres, Sacramento district manager, U.S. Postal Service; Kevin Starr, state librarian of California; Jane Lowenthal, Library of California board member; Victoria Fong, Library of California board vice president; Mary I. Purucker, Library of California board member; John Kallenberg, Library of California board member.

• The Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque, Iowa, held the stamp issuance with its annual event to recognize volunteers, using the theme "Library volunteers have our stamp of approval." The Emmaus, Pa., Public Library System linked its stamp event with the annual book sale.

• The Kate Love Simpson Morgan County Library in McConnelsville, Ohio, designed a pictorial cancellation featuring its building, and "Zippy the Postal Bear" attended the festivities. The Palestine (Texas) Public Library had local artist David Smith create a pen-and-ink drawing of the library for its commemorative envelopes.

• Several libraries, including the Gary (Indiana) Public Library and the Park City (Utah) Library served birthday cake to visitors in observance of the national library's 200th birthday.

Roberta Stevens, Bicentennial program manager, said, "Early in our planning, we decided to involve libraries and local citizens in the Bicentennial celebration as a goal of the program. We thank the U.S. Postal Service and the more than 200 libraries throughout the nation that illustrated with their second-day issue events that 'Libraries Build Community' and that the Library of Congress is 'America's Library.'"

As a gift in honor of the Bicentennial, each participating library is sending a canceled envelope commemorating its event for the Library of Congress Archive, housed in the Manuscript Division. Names of all participating libraries will soon be listed on the Library of Congress Web site at **www.loc.gov/bicentennial/items_stamp.html**. ◆

During a National Literacy Landmark award ceremony held July 7, Chicago Public Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey is presented with a framed plate of the Library's stamp and a commemorative envelope by Rufus Porter, postmaster of Chicago.

Ms. Woodrell is a reference librarian in the Main Reading Room.

The Library in the News

BY CRAIG D'OOGE

Since its official launch during a black-tie reception on Oct. 7, 1997, the Library's Bicentennial celebration has been the subject of more than 950 newspaper stories and more than 100 television and radio programs.

A special video news release on the Library's April 24th celebration aired on more than 55 television stations across the nation, gathering 4 million audience impressions, or roughly eight times the average CNN prime-time audience.

Christina Tyler

Diana Olick of the CBS Early Show interviews Dr. Billington on April 24.

A news article on the Bicentennial written by the Public Affairs Office and distributed by the North American Precis Syndicate was used in 220 newspaper articles in 14 states, with a combined readership of 8.5 million. A radio news release was broadcast on 131 stations in 37 states with a total audience of 4.7 million.

The Local Legacies project alone accounted for nearly 400 newspaper stories in 40 states. A video news release was distributed by satellite and aired 18 times with a combined audience of 470,000. Members of Congress and individuals across the nation were involved in the celebration of the Bicentennial through the Local Legacies project. For more than a year, Local Legacies teams documented the creative arts, crafts and customs representing traditional community life; signature events such as festivals and parades; how communities observe local and national historical events; and the occupations that defined a community's life. More than three-fourths of Congress and 4,000 Americans have been a part of this once-in-a-lifetime project. All of these projects, nominated for participation by the members of Congress, were documented for inclusion in the Library's American Folklife Center collections.

An announcement by Dr. Billington in New Orleans during the American Library Association meeting in June 1999 about Louisiana's participation in the Local Legacies Project drew extensive coverage, with an Associated Press story carried in *The Times-Picayune* and throughout the state in local newspapers. Virtually every other community that participated in Local Legacies was the subject of a story in their local newspaper about their participation in the "home grown" part of the Library's Bicentennial observance.

The activities of poet laureate Robert Pinsky dominated coverage in 1998, with an article in *The New York Times* on Feb. 17 outlining his plans for his Favorite Poem Project. Additional articles followed, by the Gannett News Service, Associated Press, *Chronicle of Higher Education* and many local newspapers, such as the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Atlanta Journal, The Washington Post,* the *Denver Post* and the *Christian Science Monitor.* Mr. Pinsky was interviewed by Katie Couric on the "Today" show on New Year's Day 1999.

The Favorite Poem Project created audio and video archives of Americans of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life reciting their favorite poems. At the heart of this initiative is Mr. Pinsky's belief that poetry is meant to be read aloud. "If a poem is written well, it was written with the poet's voice and for a voice," he said. "Reading a poem silently instead of saying a poem is like the difference between staring at sheet music and actually humming or playing the music on an instrument." Mr. Pinsky's recordings are being added to the Library's Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature.

Plans for the Library's "yearlong birthday party" were reviewed by Linton Weeks in *The Washington Post* on Dec. 13, 1999. Other major mass-market stories included an article on National Poetry Month in *Publishers Weekly* (March 13, 2000), an interview with Dr. Billington in the *Shuttle Sheet* of Delta Airlines (April) and articles and programs in many other news outlets as the anniversary date neared, including *American History, Southern Living, Museum News, Roll Call, The New York Times,* Associated Press, *The International Herald-Tribune, The Washington Times, USA Today, Los Angeles Times* and most other major market publications.

C-SPAN continued to cover many Library events. The staff of the Manuscript Division participated heavily in a series of programs on the presidents. On Dec. 16, 1999, the Librarian hosted an extraordinary three-hour live tour of the Manuscript Division stacks with Brian Lamb, as Manuscript Division specialists and Mark Roosa of the Conservation Office fielded questions on-air.

There was probably more coverage on April 24, 2000, of the Library of Congress by both print and broadcast media nationwide than on any other day in the institution's history.

The Library's celebration was covered extensively by local stations WUSA-TV, WRC-TV and Newschannel 8, in addition to national outlets CNN, Fox, CBS-TV, and C-SPAN. Even the game show "Jeopardy" joined in, by honored the Library with a category of its own.

Later, on April 26, the Librarian was interviewed by Juan Williams on the nationally broadcast NPR show "Talk of the Nation," in addition to his earlier interview on March 16 with Frank Stacio. ABC's "Good Morning America" covered the opening of the Bob Hope Gallery on May 9 , along with WUSA, WTTG and CBS "Sunday Morning." The Librarian returned

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International
continued from page 211

the gala event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Madison Council. Members of the Council, Congress and the diplomatic community will have an opportunity to view the donated gifts that evening.

Of the items already donated under the Gifts project, about 270 are written in a language other than English. Most of the items are books, including rare and limited edition items. Embassies have also contributed videos, music CDs, audiotapes, facsimiles and other print materials. Several nations have donated complete sets or multiple items.

The response to Dr. Billington's letter has been steady. Many ambassadors first called the Library asking for details about the program, as well as suggestions of possible donations. Many embassies contacted both their national governments and their national libraries in order to secure appropriate items.

Delivery methods have differed. While many embassies sent their donations by mail, other ambassadors delivered their gifts in person. In some cases, items were delivered by high-level dignitaries. On Feb. 24, Spain's King Juan Carlos I, during his visit to the Library, presented the Library with a full-color facsimile volume recording the history of the Spanish kings up to the mid-1500s.

Ms. Brown said that the project thus far has created the opportunity to strengthen relations with the ambassadorial community. Ms. Brown also noted that several of the ambassadors have backgrounds in literature or book culture, which makes their enthusiasm for the "International Gifts" project all the greater.

"It really has been wonderful," said Lavonda Broadnax, library automation operations coordinator in Area Studies and the coordinator of the current project. "It has been a time to increase contact between the area specialists and the representatives of these countries."

Some of the collection items are of particular significance. For example, on June 12, the "national day"of Portugal, the ambassador of Portugal delivered an extremely rare three-volume set of books published between 1706 and 1712. The books, all written by Antonio Carvalho da Costa, contain maps, political information, complete genealogies of Portuguese nobility and geographic descriptions, among other things. The volumes are considered a valuable addition to the Library because of their rarity as well as their comprehensive description of Portugal in the 18th century.

Another valuable gift arrived when the Estonian ambassador delivered a special limited-edition printing of his country's translation of the Book of Revelations, with exquisite purple and gold illustrations on fine paper. The embassy prepared a special box to house the item and the video and CDs that accompanied it.

One of the more unique additions was a gift of almost 170 Brazilian chapbooks, donated by the Brazilian embassy in November 1999. Chapbooks are small, inexpensive books, usually with a woodcut-print cover, which may contain tracts, ballads, poems or other contemporary writings. The chapbooks, which are designed to help Brazilian adults learn how to read, are published locally and typically are quite fragile. Although they are inexpensive items, they are very difficult to acquire. The Library has the largest chapbook collection in the world outside of Brazil, and the embassy's donation was a welcome addition to the collection.

New items are steadily arriving. The ambassador from Thailand donated six books, including two books published by the country's Office of the Private Secretary of the Queen, which are not readily available for sale. Ms. Brown has recently been contacted by the Japanese Embassy with questions regarding a possible donation, and a notification from the State of Qatar informed the Library that a donation of more than 200 items, mostly in Arabic, is en route.

Another unusual addition was a facsimile of the Treaty of Waitangi, donated by the New Zealand embassy. The treaty, originally signed on Feb. 6, 1840, was an agreement among approximately 45 Maori chiefs, several British residents and a British captain on behalf of Queen Victoria. The treaty consists of nine separate documents, and all but one are written in Maori, translated from the original English version drafted by Capt. William Hobson.

In order to prepare for the gala, the Library set August 15 as the deadline for receipt of any gifts that will be on view that evening. The Library's Area Studies and Interpretive Programs offices have initiated planning for the display. After the gala, all the items will be sent to the appropriate departmental unit, based on the normal pattern of distribution followed by the Library. ◆

Ms. Nash is an intern with The Gazette, *the Library's staff newsletter.*

News
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to C-SPAN again on May 12 for an interview with Brian Lamb, and "ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings" covered the Wizard of Oz exhibition on May 17.

In June, the Library was featured on NPR five times, including a two-hour broadcast of the May 22 Stephen Sondheim 70th birthday concert. Early American manuscript specialist Gerard Gawalt was interviewed about the Declaration of Independence on July 4, and Dr. Billington was interviewed by Mike Cuthbert for "Prime Time Radio" on July 5. On Aug. 4, the "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" broadcast an extensive general feature on the Library, and CBS "Sunday Morning" ran a story on the new poet laureate on Aug. 6.

Although most of the Bicentennial events have been held, the coverage has had a "ripple effect," with media interest in the Library at an all-time high. ◆

Mr. D'Ooge is media director in the Public Affairs Office.

Readers
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sense, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice."

Ms. Cannon introduced two selections, read by Mr. Middleton, that centered on the "Little Rock Nine," whose integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., required President Eisenhower to send in federal troops. The first selection was a 1957 letter from Daisy Bates, head of the Arkansas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a key figure in the integration of Central High, to Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, about the treatment of the nine black students.

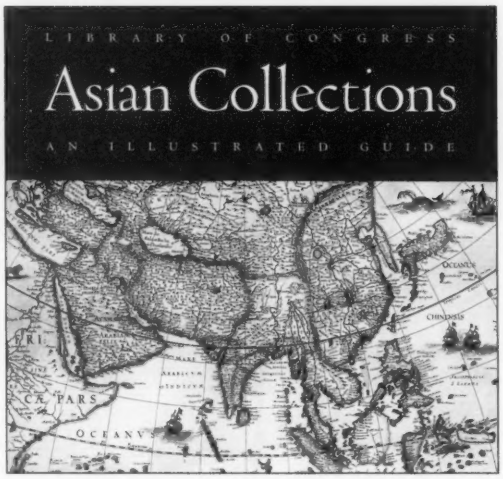
Mr. Middleton then read from a 1959 NAACP document titled "The Ordeal of Minnie Jean Brown: One of the First Nine Negro Students to Attend Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas." Brown was expelled from Central High for retaliating against continued mistreatment from her classmates. At the conclusion of this reading, Mr. Middleton shared his personal experiences as one of nine black students who integrated the all-white Walker Junior High School in Bradenton, Fla., in 1965.

He then provided the students with historical information on freedom songs and introduced Bernice Johnson Reagon. Ms. Reagon, a former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Freedom Singer (1961-1964), and producer of the Smithsonian's three-record collection *Voices of the Civil Rights Movement: Black American Freedom Songs 1960-66,* provided a soul-stirring account, in word and song, of "the movement" during the early 1960s—a time when young black and white Americans spearheaded freedom rides, sit-ins, marches and other demonstrations against racial segregation and the "second-class citizenship" of African Americans. ◆

Ms. Pyne is a network development specialist in the Network Development and MARC Standards Office.

Library Publishes Guide to Asian Collections

The Library of Congress has recently published *Library of Congress Asian Collections: An Illustrated Guide.* Representing the cultures of China, Japan, Korea, the South Asian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia, the guide traces the growth of the collection from its earlier emphasis on the classics to its current focus on modern Asian publications.



"Beyond describing the collection, the guide conveys the story of how this material came to this home so far from its origins," said Mya Thanda Poe, chief of the Library's Asian Division. "The story involves a fascinating cast of scholars, diplomats, missionaries, explorers, adventurers and soldiers who collected and brought home to America print and nonprint material, which became part of the Library's rich Asian collection. As a result, the collection mirrors the growth of American diplomatic involvement, academic interest and public attention to Asia."

The Library of Congress is a central repository for all types of Asian publications that are not broadly available at other locations in the United States. Initiated in 1869 with a gift of 10 works in 933 volumes offered to the United States by the Emperor of China, the Library's Asian collection of more than 2 million items is the largest and most comprehensive outside of Asia.

The collection includes one of the oldest examples of printing in the world—passages from a Buddhist sutra, or discourse, printed in A.D. 770. From eighth century printed prayers placed in wooden pagodas to current Tibetan periodicals, the Library's Asian collection displays a rich written tradition in a variety of formats, including fans, woodblocks, scrolls, silk cloth, porcelain, palm leaves and bamboo. More than 65 illustrations, mostly in color, highlight the diverse nature of the material.

Portions of the collection came to the Library as a result of American expeditions to Asia. For example, a collection of more than 3,000 Naxi pictographic manuscripts dating back to the 13th century were brought to America by Joseph Rock, who explored the region on assignment for *National Geographic* during the 1920s and 1930s. Similarly, a collection of Malay manuscripts and early printed books written in Jawi (Malay in Arabic script) were brought to the United States in 1842 on a sailing vessel commanded by Lt. Charles Wilkes. Herman Melville used the official history of the Wilkes Expedition as a resource for his 1851 novel, *Moby-Dick,* and modeled Captain Ahab after Lt. Wilkes.

Made possible by support from the James Madison Council, a national, private-sector advisory council dedicated to helping the Library of Congress share its unique resources with the nation and the world, the illustrated guides to the Library's collections feature materials in various formats. They include guides to the Library's collections of manuscripts; prints and photographs; rare books; cartographic materials; music, theater and dance; and Hispanic and Portuguese and European materials.

Library of Congress Asian Collections: An Illustrated Guide—an 80-page softcover book—is available for $10 from the Library of Congress Sales Shop. Credit card orders: (202) 707-0204 and from the U.S. Government Printing Office (stock number 030-000-00-284-9). ◆

Conservation Corner

A Sound Future for Recordings

BY MARK ROOSA

Many Americans are unaware that, in addition to its unparalleled book, photograph and manuscript collections, the Library also houses nearly 2.5 million sound recordings in virtually every audio format. Tapes, wire recordings, wax and celluloid cylinders, shellac discs, and vinyl LPs and 45s form the bulk of the sound recordings collections. In recent years, digital formats such as CDs, R-DAT tapes and various ephemeral formats have been added. New materials in various formats enter the collections each year through gift, purchase and copyright deposit. One of the continuing preservation challenges the Library faces is how best to provide correct storage of all of the formats received.

In 1957 the Library commissioned a study of preservation issues for sound recordings. This investigation produced *Preservation and Storage of Sound Recordings*, by A.G. Pickett and M.M. Lemcoe (Washington, Library of Congress, 1959). This brief but useful publication sheds light on some of the chemical and mechanical issues affecting disc and tape recordings. In the intervening years the Library has built on this information and implemented measures to protect its recorded sound collections. But it was not until this year, in an effort to prepare the Library's enormous collection of sound recordings for their move to the Library's National Audio Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Va., that curators in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) and staff from the Preservation Directorate had an opportunity to look at some of the issues related to packaging discs in preservation-quality enclosures that would both protect them in transport and preserve them for the long term.

"We started by reviewing the current state of packaging for each of the disc types, with the goal of providing the best protection and physical support for master and use copies," said Samuel Brylawski, head of the Recorded Sound Section of MBRS.

There were many factors to consider. There is a need to determine the best type of materials to place in direct contact with the discs, the weight of the packaging, the need for secondary storage boxes and whether to place packaged discs into plastic dust covers. Making a decision on these issues is no simple task, as discs are composed of a variety of materials, including celluloid, cellulose acetate, shellac, polystyrene and polycarbonates of various kinds.

Other questions to consider were: Which packaging material would be least affected by a flood or fire? Which design was most easily assembled? How would the proposed packages fit into standard shelving? In the end, the group decided to place 45s, shellac 78s, and Edison discs into acid-free paper card sleeves (with a cutout in the middle to expose label information) and into Mylar dust jackets. The group selected a variation of this solution for LPs. Because there is so much graphic information on LP covers and because the grooves of LPs are especially sensitive to scratches, the group decided to use a high-density polyethylene sleeve to hold the LP, which is then placed into its original sleeve and then into its original cover, which is covered with a Mylar dust jacket. Said Mr. Brylawski, "This approach provides multiple levels of protection for the disc at a reasonable cost." For those who are interested, the group will mount the various package designs on the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov/preserv**.

In the weeks ahead, the team will refine specifications for the various disc packages and take steps to procure them in large quantities to begin the task of packaging the collections for their move to the center in Virginia, which is set to open in 2003. ◆

Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division staffers Larry Miller (left) and Samuel Brylawski with new packages for the Library's recorded sound collections.

Mr. Roosa is chief of the Conservation Division.

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report that the "Library is on the right track, but needs to run faster."

The associate librarian said this is not the time for second-guessing past decisions or indecisions, endless chat sessions or hand-wringing. "If we do not seize the offensive and begin immediately to prioritize and develop action plans for those [NAS] recommendations with which we agree, we will have wasted a rare opportunity to lead, to renew this Library, and to make a lasting difference in the intellectual life of this nation," Mr. Tabb said.

The Library's Digital Futures Group is eager to begin its assigned task of reviewing the NAS recommendation, he said, and to work closely, as assigned, with the Register of Copyrights "on perhaps the most critical challenge we face—accelerated development of a full production system that will enable copyright owners to deposit, and the Library to acquire, works in digital form." This system is known as CORDS, for Copyright Office Electronic Registration, Recordation and Deposit System.

Digital Strategy

In his July 26 statement, Mr. O'Donnell said three of the committee's conclusions—those relating to the Library's digital strategy, management structure and human resources—deserved primary mention.

He said the committee concluded that "the Library has made very slow progress in devising strategy and tactics for the acquisition, preservation, cataloging and accessibility of material that is created and distributed primarily in digital format—material we call 'born digital.'

"Although there have been ad hoc projects and pilot programs around the Library, no overall strategy has been developed, and the fundamental systems needed to make such a strategy feasible are not in place. This is not to say the Library has been inactive, but we do believe that the steps taken have been far too limited in scale," he said.

He noted that the National Digital Library Program—"a kind of internal Apollo Project"—brought together skilled and visionary people, found resources in creative ways and delivered the product (5 million digital artifacts) "in an astonishingly short time."

"But turning the Library's paper treasures into digital artifacts is only one tiny part of the work of creating a true National Digital Library," Mr. O'Donnell said.

The committee reviewed the Library's history, noted the preeminence of its traditional collections and its landmark achievements, such as the creation and standardization of machine-readable cataloging (MARC), assessed the status of digital information and technology in various units and curatorial divisions and recommended some strategies for capturing, accessing and preserving digital information.

The committee made a case for acquiring digital information. "At the heart of its recommendations is the committee's strong awareness of the role of digital information at the center of contemporary discourse. That role is a simple fact, unrelated to whatever e-zealots or bibliophiles might wish to be the case.

"For some important areas of human knowledge, the best new knowledge can be acquired in digital form," the committee said.

Formats include thousands of e-journals, many of them scholarly journals, including digital versions of printed journals and digital-only publications, most of which will be linked through indexing services and search engines; e-books, which vendors are beginning to distribute as the result of deals with publishers; databases; and some 3.6 million Web pages and linked resources.

"Probably the most active area of digital publishing today is taking place on the World Wide Web. ... Some of these digital works are as important as records of current research and creativity, as were the journals and books of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries," the committee said.

Librarians in the 21st century will have to change their thinking about collections, the committee said. A collection "will consist necessarily of a range of activities, from the acquisition of traditional materials to something much more like what we do when we own stocks in companies whose printed share certificates we never see."

In deciding which digital information to acquire, the Library will have to think through how much it can afford to preserve and should develop acquisition and preservation strategies in concert with other libraries.

"The burden of preserving digital collections is enormous. The committee believes that this burden must necessarily be shared among a variety of archiving institutions," the committee said. "To ensure that all important research materials are preserved for future generations, it is important that archiving institutions understand the scope of each other's stewardship roles, as is the case with hard-copy publications."

The committee recommended that the Library:

- explicitly define the sets of digital resources for which it will assume long-term curatorial responsibility;
- work with other institutions to define appropriate levels of responsibility for archiving and accessing digital resources the Library does not want to keep and maintain;
- selectively adopt a "portal model" for some selected program areas, creating links from the Library's Web site to distant archives and arranging for users' access to licensed commercial resources.

Some of the toughest questions for all libraries relate to ownership of digital information and the high cost of acquiring, accessing, maintaining and preserving it. Traditionally, libraries owned materials as the result of purchases, gifts or exchanges, and permitted use as allowed by copyright or best practice. "Many electronic resources, on the other hand, are maintained by publishers, vendors or others designated by them, and libraries or individuals can obtain rights of access through custom or mass-market licenses," the committee said.

"The Library of Congress has a unique and privileged position in the acquisition of cultural materials," the committee said. "While other libraries in the United States must find willing sellers and must have the financial wherewithal to become willing buyers

in a freely made commercial transaction, the requirement of legal deposit with the Copyright Office gives the Library a presumptive right to full ownership of a copy of each and every artifact published in the United States."

Copyright Is Critical

"The Library's role in registering copyright and enforcing the mandatory deposit law creates a unique opportunity for it to collect digital information that might otherwise vanish from the historical record," the committee said.

However, the committee also found: "The Library of Congress, as recipient of mandatory deposit copies of works published in the United States, lags significantly in receiving and archiving the born-digital product of the nation."

The committee questioned whether the Copyright Office should continue to develop the Copyright Office Electronic Registration, Recordation and Deposit System (CORDS) in its current form or use a different system for receiving deposits of digital publications, registering them and adding them to the Library's collections. This project has been under way since 1993. The committee said it was "concerned about the scale and deployment" of CORDS, which is expected to handle 100,000 digital deposits (less than 15 percent of the projected total of 725,000 deposits) by 2004.

Mr. O'Donnell said it "is urgent that this stage of experimentation be brought to conclusion with the installation of a system capable of handling much larger quantities of digital information, and in particular, capable of allowing the deposit of the huge, creative output of the World Wide Web.

"We believe that this last requirement can only be achieved if the Copyright Office and other units of the Library begin to work together with an intensity that they have not hitherto been challenged to demonstrate," he said.

The new copyright acquisition system needs to integrate well with other Library systems and make it easier for providers of information to register and deposit their works, and for the Library to enforce the deposit requirement, the committee said.

The committee recommended that the Copyright Office complete a statement of work for a production system in FY 2001, as planned, and "as soon as possible," by the end of calendar year 2000.

"To achieve this goal, the resources and attention of Library-wide senior management should be directed to the Copyright Office, perhaps comparable to the scale and visibility of the ILS implementation," the committee said. The committee urged Congress to support and fund the acquisition of a production system.

Finding that the mechanisms and policies for the deposit of digital works currently favor printouts or tangible forms, such as CD-ROM, over digital editions of digital works, the committee recommended that new standards be set for the appropriate formats for digital material acquired through copyright deposit, purchase, exchange and donation.

In particular, the committee recommended that the Library "aggressively pursue clarification of its right to collect copies of U.S.-based Web sites under the copyright deposit law. If questions about this right remain, then the Library should seek legislation that changes the copyright law to ensure that it has this right."

Preserving a Digital Heritage

The committee emphasized the importance of the Library's delineating its responsibilities for preserving digital information: as sole proprietor and custodian of some digital materials, as a "fail-safe" caretaker of collections created by others and as a partner in preserving distributed digital collections.

"As the Library identifies the areas in which it will assume the lead responsibility for digital preservation, other organizations can adjust the scope of their digital collections accordingly," the committee said. "Just as the Library cannot ignore the problem of digital preservation, it cannot be expected to do it all."

The committee cited three challenges: Digital materials are especially vulnerable to loss and destruction because they are stored on fragile magnetic and optical media that deteriorate rapidly and that can fail suddenly; they become unreadable and inaccessible if the playback devices or software necessary to retrieve information become obsolete; and legal questions surround libraries' rights to copy digital information for preservation or backup purposes, to reformat information so it remains accessible and to provide public access.

The committee found that, although many national libraries, university research libraries, archives, bibliographic utilities and organizations with large holdings of digital information are actively pursuing solutions to these problems of digital preservation, "the Library has at best played only a minimal role in these initiatives.

"As a consequence, it has little awareness of potential solutions that are emerging from joint research and development projects and has not contributed much to this important national and international problem for the library community," the committee found.

The Library should join, and, where possible, lead or facilitate national and international research and development efforts in digital preservation, the committee recommended. Also, the Library should take an active role, including working with Congress if necessary, to rework intellectual property restraints to permit copying or migrating digital information to a new format for preservation purposes.

Lacking an overarching strategy and long-range plan for digital preservation, the committee said, the Library should "immediately form a high-level planning group to coordinate digital preservation efforts and develop the policies, technical capacity and expertise to preserve digital information. A digital preservation plan should be put in place and implemented as soon as possible."

The committee also recommended that high priority be given to filling the position of head of the Preservation Directorate with someone who is knowledgeable about digital preservation.

Accessing Digital Information

"One enduring role of libraries during the transition from physical to digital information will be the intellectual task of cataloging—imposing order on diverse resources with the goal of making those resources easier to discover and manage," the committee said.

Noting that the Library probably has the largest cataloging operation in the world, and remarking upon its long and distinguished history of leadership in setting and coordinating cataloging standards (MARC, Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, subject headings, name authority controls), the committee urged the Library to assume a leadership role

in the development of digital information "metadata," defined as "information that describes the structure or content of a document but is not part of the document."

"The metadata environment is evolving rapidly. This will have profound implications for libraries and other information providers generally and for the Library of Congress in particular," the committee said. "It is the responsibility of the Library, and indeed of the nation, to offer leadership here for the benefit of the national and worldwide communities of information providers and users."

The committee made two recommendations:

(1) The Library should treat the development of a richer but more complex metadata environment as a strategic issue, increasing dramatically its level of involvement and planning in this area, and it should be much more actively involved with the library and information community in advancing the evolution of metadata practices.

"This will require a dedication of resources, direct involvement by the Librarian in setting and adjusting expectations and the strong commitment of a project leader assigned from the Executive Committee of the Library."

(2) "The Library should actively encourage and participate in an effort to develop tools for automatically creating metadata. These tools should be integrated in the cataloging work flow.

"In the end, the success or failure of the Library in the digital age will be marked chiefly by its ability to rethink and reinvent (along with comparable institutions around the world) the way that collecting and cataloging are done, whether the artifacts are digital or analog. If this report has a single central message, it is this one," the committee said.

Committee Recommends Second Deputy Librarian and New Committees

In its assessment of management issues, the committee said: "It is no longer possible, if it ever was, for senior management of large organizations to regard information technology as a black box to be controlled and managed by technologists. Certainly a library, the core of whose business is the storage and preservation of information, needs to integrate strategic and tactical thinking about information technology into every level of its management vision."

Responsibility for overall strategic planning should be the job of a second deputy librarian, the committee recommended. This deputy also would supervise Information Technology Services, chair a new information-technology vision, strategy, research and planning group (ITVSRP) and manage the Library's relationship with a panel of outside experts on a new Technical Advisory Board.

Citing the Whole-Book Cataloging Pilot Program as an example of reengineering work processes, the committee also emphasized a need to examine Library-wide workflow processes "and rationalize them across unit boundaries before new information systems are designed and developed or acquired." The Copyright Office and its interface with Library Services is the place to start this assessment, the committee said.

"The ITVSRP group would be chartered to lead the Library of Congress and the national and world libraries, into the digital age," the committee said. "It would also provide strategic technical thinking for the Library. Members of the ITVSRP group would have a good grasp of current technologies, be effective communicators and diplomats both within the Library and without (to help build bridges to industry and academia) and have some grasp of how the Library works today."

Every unit of the Library would have to get approval from this group for major information technology investments, the committee suggested.

The committee also recommended the creation of a Technical Advisory Board, which would be run by a distinguished outside chair and include librarians from the United States and abroad with a broad vision of the future of libraries, as well as technology specialists with expertise in relevant areas, the committee said.

This board would sit with the Executive Committee of the Library twice a year and inform executives of developments and directions in information initiatives and enterprises that the Library has in hand with the ITVSRP.

The committee recommended further that the technology awareness of the Library be enhanced by creating a limited number of visiting research positions for experts from around the country.

The committee also recommended that the Library not appoint a chief information officer at this time.

These recommendations flowed from the committee's findings of no strategic planning for information technology within the Library, a lack of senior management review of priority setting within Information Technology Services (ITS) and attendant shadow and duplicate systems in the Library as units establish their own systems. "No one within the Library is explicitly looking at technology and technical trends, looking at where technology will be five years out. No one is bringing that vision to the major service units and current innovators and saying to them, 'This is what [Information Technology] could bring to you in five years; how would you use it?'" the committee said.

The committee noted that although ITS is chartered to provide a service to the rest of the Library, "it is not chartered or budgeted to generate ideas about the Library's future, even as that future relates to technology."

"The current ITS organization and staff are not well suited to provide technical vision, strategy or technical leadership for the Library. These roles require an outward-looking organization that participates in national and international library initiatives," the committee said.

Human Resources

Mr. O'Donnell said the committee was "deeply concerned that human resource issues in the Library—some a legacy of past management problems, some intrinsically related to the challenges of managing information technology in the federal sector—pose the most threatening set of obstacles to improvement."

One problem is noncompetitive pay. "It is practically impossible for the Library to hire new college graduates in computer science," the committee said, noting that the Library is able to pay only about 60 percent of the going salaries for IT workers.

Another problem is a federal personnel system bogged down by Civil Service human resources regulations; several layers of court-ordered procedural steps added to all hiring and review of personnel as result of the Cook [class-action antidiscrimination] case; and outmoded management practices "that are redolent of

old, assembly-line methods."

"In the short term, hiring has become slower and more cumbersome, just at a moment when technical staff particularly are pursued with increasing speed and agility by virtually every other sector of the economy," the committee said.

"The need for workforce flexibility in the digital age is in direct conflict with rigid human resource rules at the Library of Congress," the committee said.

Noting that the National Digital Library Program hired quickly temporary staff and contractors with special skills, the committee recommended a greater reliance on outsourcing and contract employees.

Noting that some 40 percent of the Library staff will be eligible to retire by 2004, the committee recommended against the automatic hiring of replacements with similar skills. "Retirements should instead be viewed as opportunities to hire staff with the qualifications in librarianship and technology needed to meet the digital challenge, and reengineering should be rewarded when senior management allocates staff positions to units," the committee recommended.

The committee recommended that the Human Resources directorate review hiring practices to make sure job descriptions are written to appeal to applicants outside the government.

Recognizing the long tenure of employees, the committee recommended more training opportunities for staff. Professional development, outside technical training and practice in using the training are crucial.

"Congress should be asked to increase the Library's training budget by a significant amount. This increase should be more than an incremental one—more on the order of a doubling or tripling of this year's amount in the next budget submitted to Congress," the committee recommended.

The committee also recommended that the Library increase the number of junior and senior level staff involved in professional association activities, which are a source of learning, networking and leadership training; that more internships be offered to graduate and undergraduate students; and that mentoring teams be formed to provide peer training in technology.

A formal assessment of lessons learned from the Integrated Library System installation should be completed by Jan. 1, 2001, the committee said.

IT Infrastructure

Noting that the Library increasingly turns to outside sources for information technology needs, such as the ILS, the committee said the Library will continue to need a strong in-house organization to perform some internal information technology development, training, support and operations and to monitor outside contracts.

The committee said Information Technology Services basically does its job of supporting the Library's computer and communication systems. It acquires, supports and maintains the computer, networking and telephone systems; it does most of the in-house programming and much of the computer-systems training; and it monitors contracts with software and hardware vendors.

"ITS produces substantial and serviceable high-level architectural documents on topics such as storage and retrieval of digital content, centrally supported systems infrastructure and telecommunications. Its server and storage architectures meet its customers' needs.

"Although it is not what in industry would be seen as an exceptionally responsive or cutting-edge technical organization, given the many restraints of its environment, ITS adequately provides basic services. The Library of Congress systems work and people get their jobs done, even though—as is true in other organizations—they want more services than the central organization can possibly deliver within budget constraints," the committee found.

Although mid-level management seems to be hard-working and competent, "ITS staff do not ... have the technical depth to meet the current challenges. They cannot keep current in areas like networks, security, middleware and databases ... because the Library of Congress does not budget adequate time or money for their continuing education or attendance at professional conferences. Nor is there a budget for members of the IITS staff to spend time investigating new technology," the committee found. Committee recommendations included investing more in the continuing education and training of ITS staff.

The committee suggested ITS be more businesslike in its operations by instituting a system of service-level agreements that include performance metrics and by instituting a cost-accounting system by which service units may determine what their information technology actually costs them.

The committee found two main infrastructure problems, the lack of information technology security and underpowered networks.

Finding that the Library's computer and information security competence and policies are "seriously inadequate," the committee recommended that technical experts should be retained to recommend an information security plan, which should be implemented promptly. Congress should provide funding for a disaster recovery strategy and its implementation.

All local area networks need to be upgraded to 100-megabit-per-second Ethernet circuits as soon as possible, and compatible Ethernet switches should replace ATM switches designed for digitized telephone traffic, the committee recommended.

Among the committee's other findings and recommendations are these:

- All employees should have easy access to universal e-mail.
- The Library should establish disk-based storage for online data and a remote online disaster-recovery facility. The current system does not distinguish between storage for access and storage for preservation and is too costly.
- The Library should place a higher priority on implementing an appropriate digital information repository. ◆

Ms. Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, *the Library's staff newsletter.*

News from the Center for the Book

International Update

"Literacy and Libraries" Is Focus of Meetings in Jerusalem

The Section on Reading of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), chaired by Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole, sponsored two programs during ILFA's 66th annual conference in Jerusalem in August.

"At last year's annual conference in Bangkok, IFLA's Professional Board asked the Section on Reading to help IFLA members determine how they can best promote literacy," said Mr. Cole. "Our two sessions in Jerusalem were steps towards this goal."

The first program, "Literacy and Libraries: An Introduction," took place on Aug. 16 and featured the presentation and discussion of two papers: "Literacy, Libraries & IFLA: Recent Developments and a Look at the Future," by Mr. Cole, and "Major International Studies of Literacy in the 1990s" by Shirley Fitzgibbons of the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University. Commentary on the two papers will come from individuals who served on IFLA's Working Group on Literacy (1996-1999), which submitted its final report and recommendations at the Bangkok meeting.

Goals of the IFLA Section on Reading

- To provide leadership, advice and information about international campaigns that support reading development
- To monitor and promote research about reading, literacy, readers and library users
- To encourage a better understanding of reading patterns and literacy problems through discussion, publications and conferences
- To raise awareness of the importance of reading in children's development and sharing information about research and reading promotion activities regarding young people.

The second Section on Reading session was "Library-Based Programming to Promote Literacy," an all-day workshop on Aug. 17. The topics and presenters included: "A Literacy Program in a Library: A Case Study from Botswana," by Gertrude Kayaga Mulindwa, former director of the Botswana National Library Service, and Marty Legwaila; "Library-Based Programs to Promote Literacy: Do They Exist in Azerbaijan?" by Muzhgan Nazoraov, IRC director, Public Affairs Section, American Embassy, Baku, Azerbaijan; "The 'Born to Read' Bilingual Program at the San Antonio Public Library," by Barbara Immroth, University of Texas, Austin; and "A Public Library Enhances Services Through Family Literacy," by Kathy East, Wood County District Public Library, Ohio.

Mr. Cole's paper and the text of the final report and recommendations of the IFLA Working Group on Literacy are available in the Section on Reading's portion of IFLANET, the official IFLA Web site, at **www.ifla.org**.

The projects and publications of the Section on Reading also are described on the Web site. The Section on Reading's current activities and goals, along with news items about literacy on the international scene, are outlined in the section's most recent *Newsletter* (No. 10, July 2000), which is available free from the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4920, e-mail: cfbook@loc.gov. A Section on Reading brochure that includes membership information is also available from the Center for the Book.

International Literacy Day to Be Celebrated on Sept. 8

The Center for the Book will host the U.S. celebration of International Literacy Day at the Library of Congress on Friday, Sept. 8. The all-day event, which is open to the public, begins at 9:30 a.m. Cosponsors include many of the center's national reading promotion partners, including the International Reading Association, the World Bank, UNESCO, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute for Literacy. Events include displays by sponsoring organizations, "read-ins" with students, announcements of literacy awards, and a symposium at which international literacy experts will discuss the recently released Organization for Economic

Center for the Book Program Officer Maurvene Williams shows some of the center's reading promotion posters to Rehab Salem Ibrahim Ouf, one of four librarians from Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt, who participated in an orientation and training program at the Library of Congress April 3-28, 2000.

Cooperation and Development report on "Literacy in the Information Age." All activities will take place in the Madison Building.

'World of Words' at the Connecticut Center for the Book

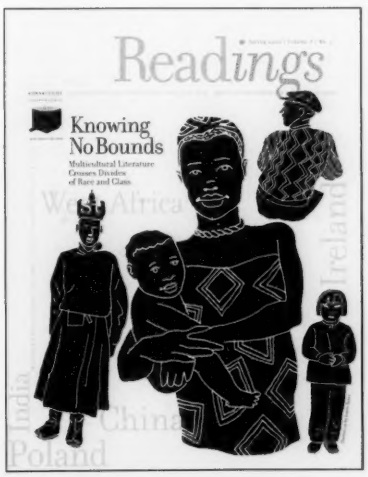
David Pudlin, majority leader of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and foreign consular representatives from India, Great Britain, Poland and Nigeria were among the speakers on April 7 at the opening "World of Words" program at the Hartford Public Library. Sponsored by the Connecticut Center for the Book during National Library Week, "World of Words" celebrates Connecticut's literary and cultural roots by matching public libraries and public library programming with the state's rich multiethnic traditions. From April 10 to 15, for example, the Enfield Public Library featured exhibitions, storytelling, music and art from Poland and other programs that highlighted Polish culture and traditions. Other participating libraries and the literary and cultural traditions featured at each were Derby Public Library (Italy), Farmington Library (India), the Ferguson Library in Stamford (China), Granby Public Library (Canada), Hartford Public Library (the Caribbean), New Britain Public Library (Great Britain), Wallingford Public Library (Greece), Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury (Ireland), West Hartford Public Library (Russia) and the Winsor Public Library (West Africa).

Winners in the "Why We Came and What We Brought" contest (front row): Benjamin Dean, Timothy Bui and Kristin Klemeshefsky are with their parents and contest judges; Raouf Mama, storyteller, advisory council member and professor at Connecticut State University, with Ozichi Alimole, consul of Nigeria for Commerce and Information.

"Why We Came and What We Brought," a "World of Words" student essay contest, was inaugurated this year. Students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 were asked, in 500 words or less, to describe their own ethnic identity by responding to three questions: Where did your parents, grandparents or earlier ancestors come from? Do you know why they came to America? What cultural gifts did they bring with them that were special or unique? and How do you share those gifts with the people in our life? Members of the International Studies faculty at St. Joseph College judged the essays for their content, organization and style. The awards were presented at the opening program by William A. Howe of the Connecticut State Department of Education. The winners were Benjamin Dean, grade 9, Farmington (1st place); Timothy Bui, grade 6, Enfield (2nd place); and Kristin Klemeshefsky (3rd place), grade 7, Waterbury.

Literacy consultant Virginia Mathews, a member of the Connecticut Center for the Book's Advisory Council, represented the national Center for the Book at the program. Advisory council member Vivian Shipley introduced the foreign consular representatives, who presented books about their countries for the collections of the "paired libraries." Following closing remarks from Connecticut Center for the Book coordinator Kathleen A. Lyons, advisory council member Raouf Mama presented a "World of Words Sample" by telling a folktale from West Africa.

On April 16, the Connecticut Center for the Book was a co-host of the American Library Association's annual Mary Hill Arbuthnot lecture, marking an award given each year to a prominent contributor to the field of children's literature. The 2000 honoree was author and editor Hazel Rochman, an advocate of multicultural literature for young people, and author of *Against Borders: Promoting Books for a Multicultural World*. Her talk, presented at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, was titled "Knowing No Bounds." ◆



The spring 2000 issue of *Readings*, the Connecticut Center for the Book's quarterly publication, featured multicultural literature.

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